# Daily Report

# Central Eurasia

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*FBIS-SOV-92-046* *9 March 1992*

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## Expert Endorses Renunciation of ABM Treaty

*OW0603155892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1531 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As Russia and the US may decide to unite their efforts in creating a common "nuclear umbrella", they should fully renounce the ABM treaty and replace it with a new bilateral agreement, Vice-President of the Russian Institute of National Security and Strategic Studies and participant in the START talks, Aleksandr Savelyev, told DP.

He believes that although Russia and the US have announced their adherence to the ABM treaty, they interpret it differently. The US administration believes that the Treaty bans exclusively "exotic" defence systems. "We insisted until recently that the treaty ban the development and testing of ABM systems and components, both traditional and exotic, except the stationary land-based ones.

In Aleksandr Savelyev's opinion, if Russia decides to work on any programme going beyond the limits of research jointly with the US, it will instantly violate the ABM Treaty in its own interpretation. The US will not.

Further developments may be as follows. First, the Russian leaders may choose to adjust Boris Yeltsin's and Andrey Kozyrev's statements, reducing the whole problem to our participation in "research programmes". A radical revision of the ABM Treaty towards softening its limitations would be a more radical step, Aleksandr Savelyev believes. This would allow both sides to deploy a strictly negotiated number of land- and space-based ABN components.

And yet, complete renunciation of the ABM Treaty and its replacement with a new Russian-American treaty would be the most radical and correct measure. Such a document might contain many parameters of the modernized ABM Treaty with the only essential difference that it would reflect a new level of relations between the two countries, Aleksandr Savelyev said in conclusion.

## Russia's Uranium Sales to U.S. Viewed

*PM0603145792 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Mar 92 p 2*

[Report by correspondent I. Alekseyenko: "For Sale to America"]

[Text] Krasnokamensk, Chita Oblast—I recall from childhood the terrifying tales of criminals sentenced to death who are sent to the uranium mines. They are going to die anyway, people said, at least this way they will live a little longer and be of use.

The reality proved far more prosaic. In the mines, with lighting and ventilation that would be the envy of many city avenues, ordinary people mine uranium in special overalls and rubber boots and with respirators over their faces.

They are mining uranium ore in a town lost among the Transbaykal steppes. It began to be erected floor by floor, house by house, in the sixties, on an empty site. And it received its name from a nearby settlement—Krasnokamensk. Only yesterday it was closed and secret yet today the hotels are overflowing. People are traveling from every kray and village.

I was brought here by a report which has flown round all the mass media—the Russians are engaging in dumping on the uranium market. Dumping means that they are eliminating competitors by offering a commodity cheaply, or to put it more simply, at give-away prices. No one has emphasized the actual commodity but I must admit that my blood ran cold—we are selling uranium!

So I am standing outside bars of the kind which are used in Russia to protect kitchen gardens and pioneer camps. Yet behind them is uranium in barrels with foreign inscriptions ready for shipment to the United States. This was explained to me by G.N. Kolov, the plant's deputy chief engineer, while we were still traveling there. Now he has fallen silent, is frowning, and has even taken a few steps to one side. Does he feel awkward and pained or does he feel to hell with it all, as they say?

"You know," he answers my question with another, "that a considerable proportion of the uranium purchased by the Americans throughout the world is not processed but stored for a long time? They are mining virtually none of their own uranium, they are saving it for later, mindful of the future."

I admit that I was prepared to hear anything from Kolovbut not this self-exposing statement. So he felt hurt and pained. What about the combine's general director, S.S. Pokrovskiy, with whom I still had to speak, I thought.

I had heard and read about this almost legendary man. But I had never met with him. I knew that he has been in Krasnokamensk from the first days and is a fanatic, a demanding, intelligent leader, a direct and sometimes sharp man. He knows like no one else the true price of this literally and figuratively heavy metal. Can it be measured in U.S. dollars?

Pokrovskiy, when I turned the talk toward this, looked at me gravely, sullenly, and kept quiet. The awkward pause was interrupted by his deputy B.N. Zizdo, who was present at the talk:

"We did not have much choice: Either sell uranium abroad or wind up production. Russia turned out not to need the uranium: The financing of the mining was stopped last year. We barely survived: We had to temporarily shut down five mines."

"And that meant hundreds and hundreds of people out of work," S.S. Pokrovskiy spoke, interrupting his deep

thought. "Building up production was complicated, curtailing it even more so. I could not bear to look people in the eye."

Since 1987 there has been a reduction in the state order for uranium mined by the Krasnokamensk workers. The town was in ferment, the prospect of unemployment loomed clearly and irreversibly before many people. In Moscow Pokrovskiy was repeatedly told about conversion and its importance for the national economic complex, but they gave no money for the proposed projects. Get it yourself, they said, seek out reserves. Last year poverty took the entire combine collective by the throat and following it the whole city. Salvation came from "over the hill": The Americans were interested in the uranium which no one needed in our own fatherland. The deal was struck and currency flowed into the combine.

Citing commercial secrecy, they would not tell me how much had been sold and at what price. At the combine the dumping accusation is considered unfounded and dictated by the desire of rival firms to obscure the issue. The Western market has not been uncontrolled for a long time, as some home-grown experts try to portray it; it is a well-organized and regulated structure. The appearance of Russian uranium on this market has caused commotion in some business circles. Long-term business contacts began to split and a mechanism of pressure was put into operation against the "interloper." The accusation of dumping, so voluptuously taken up by many of our publications, is only a small part of it.

Yet it was currency which was the nuclear power workers' main revenue last year. Today Pokrovskiy and his team feel they are winning. They are mining coal, developing zeolite deposits, and have launched an electrical engineering plant. Next is a plant for the production of ion-exchange resins.

"But the main thing" the general director believes, "is that we have succeeded in retaining the basic production and collective. We shall still serve the country."

Here the sale of uranium abroad is regarded as supremely immoral. It was not easy to burden their souls with such a grave sin, but the threatened production stoppage seemed even more dangerous. In the general confusion and chaos people have lived, and live, in hope of serving the country. We shall not seek those to blame for selling off everything—that is futile. It is better, by approaching the matter from the other side, to look at who stands to gain.

In Krasnokamensk I heard an unexpected version of the Chernobyl catastrophe: It was not an accident, I was assured, but a well-planned act of subversion. Had I heard this while waiting in line for gasoline I would have dismissed it, but in this case specialists were insisting on it. Following the catastrophe a campaign was launched in the country against nuclear power stations under construction and already operating: They were closed down wholesale, counter to logic and common sense, without creating or even suggesting anything to replace them. Yet whether we want it or not the future belongs to nuclear power engineering. So far there is simply no fitting alternative, nor is one foreseen in the immediate future. Incidentally, the West understand this very well, assertively and steadily building up its nuclear potential, and here too we have decided to follow our own path. Or to be more precise, we have gone off at a tangent somewhere, through an impassable barrier of fallen trees. As a result we have merely bumped our heads and now seem to be ready to return to the old road. But not a chance!

A new wave of antinuclear hysteria is imminent. Look what the newspapers are writing about—possible new accidents at nuclear electric power stations and related rumors. Tremble and be afraid, oh Russians, they are saying: The atom is a nasty thing is what they are persistently trying to din into our heads again and again. Some people are beginning to tremble severely. Again curses are raining down on the inept scientists who have lured the country into this nuclear "adventure." They have already grown tired of trying to justify themselves and have recently been directing every gaze toward the West, seeking support and understanding there. Not a shout but a persistent recommendation has already issued: Since Russia does not need you, then you are welcome with us in the United States. James Baker flew in to talk with the nuclear scientists, called them the most talented people in Russia, and made it clear that henceforth there is someone to show concern for creating normal working conditions. It is to be expected that following the Russian uranium our intellectual potential will also pour into the "land of equal opportunity." At least everything possible will be done for that. Naturally under the flag of protecting the interests of world civilization and humanism.

The United States today is concerned mainly with one thing—the monopolization of the power and influence of the destroyed Union. The former Ministry of Medium Machine Building is one of the choicest morsels here.

I am sure that insight will come to us. But will it not be too late?

## Future Arms Talks, Disarmament Considered

*PM0603135192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 5*

[Article by Aleksandr Savelyev: "Nuclear 'Home' Without Owner. Disarmament Talks With United States Senseless Without Agreement Within CIS"]

[Text] Russia is shaping its foreign policy course as an independent state before our very eyes. Its main principles have already been proclaimed: Desire to join the world community as an equal member and commitment to the idea of arms limitation and reduction, disarmament as a whole, and strengthening of cooperation.

The Russian leadership is trying to demonstrate its good intentions in practice, too. This is proved, in particular,

by the several foreign policy initiatives made by President Boris Yeltsin in the disarmament sphere. It cannot be said that all the initiatives have been successfully or sufficiently thought-out—those are points that have already been made by our newspapers and the foreign press. But, on the whole, the generally positive thrust of these steps is quite clear. As was the case during the thaw of the sixties, the stagnation of the seventies, and the perestroyka of the eighties, the calls for disarmament and "peace initiatives" remain—even in the nineties—one of the main "trump cards" held by the former Soviet and current Russian leadership in foreign policy.

Postwar history shows that such initiatives have indeed sometimes "worked" the way they were intended. In many cases success was quite modest, but more often these actions produced nothing but a "propaganda effect."

Of course, it cannot be claimed that the Russian president's latest proposals are copying the USSR's previous approaches to the problem: They are more specific and, above all, they have announced a number of unilateral Russian actions without making reciprocal demands of the U.S. side.

**The "Holy Cow" Has a Better Chance, Despite Its Infirmity**

At the same time, a number of the Russian leadership's subsequent statements leave no doubt that the Russian Foreign Ministry would like to see these initiatives resulting mainly in fresh talks with the United States on more cuts in strategic offensive weapons to equal levels. B. Yeltsin's statement that Russia is prepared to join in the U.S. program for the creation [sozdaniye] of a global defense system, which clashed [natolknulos] with the ABM Treaty—a "sacred cow" for many (if not most) of our politicians, military men, and diplomats—has for some reason gradually started to "fade" away. And it seems as if the "cow"—despite its infirmity—is gaining the upper hand in this "clash."

It is hard to get away from the impression that everything is coming full circle—just like in the good old days, we are planning to work out another disarmament agreement with the United States, except at a faster pace. Just a year or two ago this course of events would only have been welcomed. But the situation has changed in the most fundamental way. First, the question of just who constitutes this "we" is not entirely clear. Is it Russia? But it does not have its own armed forces. Is it the CIS? But it is not a state and, correspondingly, not an entity [subyekt] in international law. Is it a Russia authorized by the other CIS participants to conduct such talks? But none of the nuclear republics is planning to delegate such powers to it as yet. Moreover, it is well known that Ukraine wants to have its own representatives at these talks. This may also be stated by other states which were formerly Soviet republics. In this connection the question arises of how close are the positions of the four nuclear members of the CIS not only on general approaches to future talks, but on the fulfillment of the START Treaty conditions.

There is an acute need for a full-scale discussion of all disarmament problems among the CIS states, and primarily among the four members of the former Soviet Union's "nuclear club." This is what these states' foreign ministries should focus on. After all, the START Treaty should be ratified before a new agreement with the United States is signed.

It is not yet clear whether Ukraine will eliminate the SS-19 and SS-24 ICBM's and the heavy bombers on its territory within the framework of the treaty—that is, observing all the stipulated procedures for notification, inspection, and the elimination procedure. Or whether it will view its statement on the complete destruction of nuclear weapons on its territory by 1994 as a "goodwill" gesture. If Ukraine does eliminate these ICBM's and heavy bombers within the START Treaty framework, this would mean that it would have no practical reason for subsequent talks: It would be a nonnuclear power as a result of meeting the provisions of the START Treaty. If Ukraine chooses the second approach, the question will again arise of what proportion of the arms it is planning to eliminate and to what schedule. This should be a subject for discussion between the four CIS states, with a view to elaborating a unified schedule for fulfilling the treaty provisions.

**Kazakhstan Will Disarm Only in Conjunction With Everyone—That Is, Never**

And this is not even the most complex example of the possibile difficulties over the ratification and fulfillment of the agreement conditions. Far more serious is the situation with Kazakhstan, whose leader, N. Nazarbayev, has expressed readiness to eliminate nuclear weapons on Kazakh territory only in conjunction with all the other nuclear powers—that is, virtually never, since this is hardly likely to happen in the foreseeable future.

It is well known that there are 104 launch vehicles for the latest-version, silo-based SS-18 heavy ICBM deployed in Kazakhstan. They each have 10 warheads and constitute the most dangerous and destabilizing strategic weapon system, in the Americans' opinion. Under the START Treaty, our side must eliminate one-half of its 308 missiles of this type (the remaining 204 SS-18 ICBM's are on Russian territory). The question is: Will the ICBM's deployed on Kazakh territory be affected by these cuts and to what extent? Is Kazakhstan prepared to fully eliminate these ICBM's within the START Treaty framework (or subsequent agreements with the United States), since a call for an all-out ban on heavy ICBM's is more than likely and will be one of the U.S. side's tough conditions at future talks?

Needless to say, the problem of nuclear weapons on the territories of the former Soviet republics is not restricted merely to the above questions, which relate to the

ground-based component of the strategic triad. There are still the problems of strategic aviation, verification and monitoring, ways and means of eliminating strategic offensive weapons and financing work under the treaty, and the problem of tactical nuclear weapons. That is why the speediest introduction of complete clarity on all these matters is more than topical today.

**If We Were To Ally Ourselves With the United States...**

The concept of new talks with the United States also requires major elaboration. So far only one thing is clear in this regard: Russia's desire for deeper and more radical cuts in both countries' strategic offensive weapons. This is the most "visible" aspect of the problems. But how will we proceed in putting forward our own position at the talks? How does our concept reflect the provision that we do not intend to see the United States as a probable adversary any more? Moreover, on the basis of the Russian president's statements, the United States is henceforth a friendly state, as far as we are concerned, and virtually an ally. This is a most important political statement capable of changing all ideas of security in the most radical way and will need to be actually implemented in disarmament policy.

Needless to say, at the current stage of Russian-U.S. relations it is hardly possible to move immediately to a new quality of relationship. At the same time, we can hardly consider that the existing approaches to arms limitation square with the concept of allied relations. Just take the example of the United States and Britain. If we tried to "superimpose" on those two countries' strategic forces the criteria that we use in respect of existing and planned agreements with the United States, we might conclude that under certain conditions there could be a real threat of nuclear conflict between them—there is an absence of parity, strategic stability has been undermined, and the U.S. advantage is so great that with a first strike the United States could really count on winning a nuclear war. As a consequence of this, should relations between the two countries deteriorate, Britain would have a major incentive to launch a nuclear first strike, since it would be incapable of retaliating. Realizing this, the United States too would have an incentive to launch a preemptive strike, and so forth. From this example we can unambiguously conclude that applying these criteria to normal allied relations is simply absurd.

Of course, today it may seem fantastic to many people to propose that Russia and the United States could ever reach the level of allied relationship that exists between the United States and Britain and could stop worrying about problems such as maintaining parity or strengthening strategic stability. But why not start moving in this direction right now, if only by taking the sides' main concerns fully into account in any future treaty? After all, this can be done even without "sacrificing principles"—that is, by strengthening strategic stability (concepts which, it seems, are basically similar both for us and for the Americans). We need to realize that this kind of consideration is far more important from every standpoint than strategic offensive weapons cuts for the sake of cuts.

(Aleksandr Georgiyevich Savelyev is 42, a candidate of economic sciences, a participant in the Soviet-U.S. START talks, vice president of the Russian Institute of National Security and Strategic Research, a member of the London International Institute for Strategic Studies, and author of a number of studies on the problems of international security and arms control.)

## Gorbachev Meets With German President

*LD0603204692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1104 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kalintsev]

[Excerpt] Bonn, 6 Mar (TASS)—Former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev ended his stay in Bonn by meeting with Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker. After the meeting Gorbachev flew on to Munich. During his lengthy private visit to Germany he has had meetings here with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Bundestag President Rita Suessmuth, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and other Bonn politicians.

Today's talks with the Federal president, like the other meetings held in the former federal capital, were dominated by the situation in the CIS. In a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the Federal President's press spokesman said that Mikhail Gorbachev expressed concern at the current situation in the Commonwealth. Gorbachev called on the West to help the CIS find its feet, so that a single economic space can be preserved on the territory of the former USSR. The former president stressed that the establishment and strengthening of cooperative structures within the Commonwealth are, first and foremost, a matter for the republics themselves. However, they also need support from outside. The main aim is to prevent chaos and to steer developments within the CIS along the channel of the pan-European process.

According to Mikhail Gorbachev, the Russian Federation has a special role to play in this. It needs particular support from the West because it is bearing the main burden. In this respect it is important to preserve Russia's unity. Its disintegration will signify the collapse of the Commonwealth as a whole, the former president noted. [passage omitted]

## Discusses Resistance to Reform

*LD0803220592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Text] RIA reports that Mikhail Gorbachev, who is in Munich today, delivered his first address since resigning as USSR president. He admitted that in carrying out perestroyka, he underestimated the ability of the party and the nomenklatura to resist the reforms and the cynicism and rage when they were threatened with losing their privileges and levers of power. Having implemented perestroyka, we underestimated the significance of the ethnic issue in our unique multinational society. The former president described as erroneous the belief that communism and socialism failed. Neither we nor other countries—our former allies—had socialism. It is impossible to kill the idea of socialism worldwide, even if it has been thoroughly debunked, for this idea emanates from people's insuperable struggle for justice. It is not the idea of socialism which has failed but totalitarism of the 20th century in one of its most sophisticated and crude forms.

## German TV Address Noted

*LD0803214192 Moscow TASS in English 2045 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kalintsev]

[Text] Bonn, March 8 TASS—Ex-President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev spoke in favour of gradual transformation of the CIS into a federal state similar to Germany.

In his speech in Munich which was broadcast in full on an ARD TV programme today he stressed that the present Commonwealth was a logical consequence of the switching over to democratic state structures. Taking into account the historical development of nations and peoples of the former Soviet Union it is necessary to take all measures to retain a single economic, political and cultural space and prevent the collapse of the Commonwealth. The first experience of cooperation among the republics dictates the necessity of deepening coordination among them, setting up all-republican institutions and switching over to democratic federalism similar to that existing in West Germany now, Gorbachev said.

There are no alternatives to the reforms being carried out in Russia and other Commonwealth countries. The republics of the former Soviet Union will never be able to pave the way to a new civilization without political pluralism and economic freedom. The first difficulties that emerged on this way should not frighten anyone, it is a natural process, the former Soviet leader stressed. Now the matter is to lend an additional impulse to the reforms and conduct them in a more consistent, resolute and competent manner, he added.

According to Gorbachev, the main burden of the reforms in the Commonwealth is carried by Russia and its President Boris Yeltsin. The deterioration of living standards of the population as a result of the drop of production and the price liberalization has sharpened the political situation to the limit which anti-democratic and reactionary forces try to use in their own interests. Their coming to power will mean the end of democratic reforms and return to old, out-of-date forms, therefore, the West should render comprehensive political and economic assistance to the Commonwealth countries, in the first place, to Russia and its present leaders, the ex-president pointed out. Germans understand it best of all. In perspective Russia and Germany may establish not only good partnership but develop a strong friendship. It is necessary that other Europeans should understand it, too.

Gorbachev is on a week-long private visit to Germany organized by the "Bertelsmann" publishing concern. After a series of meetings with German leaders in Bonn, he is now staying in Bavaria. He met with the leadership of this largest Federal land officially called a "free state of Bavaria" and was shown its best sights. Bavarians give the former Soviet leader a cordial welcome.

### Baltic Sea Regional Council Established

*OW0603185592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1827 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 5 the Baltic Sea Regional Council comprising 10 countries was set up. The decision was made at a meeting of the regional countries' foreign ministers in Copenhagen (Denmark). The Council will not have permanent secretariat and budget and will meet once a year at the level of foreign minister in each state in turn.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said that he sees great prospects for cooperation among "the ten" in the technical, economic, humanitarian and medical spheres, as well as in the spheres of power engineering, environmental protection, culture, tourism and transportation.

### Ministers at Baltic Sea Conference Cited

*OW0703185092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1654 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Today foreign ministers of the Baltic Sea countries continued to discuss the problems of ethnic minorities.

The Russian and Lithuanian foreign ministers considered the idea of creating under international supervision a buffer zone extending from the village of Narva-Joesuu to Yamburg for relocating there all Finno-Ugric small peoples.

As Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri told BF [BALTFAX], his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev had expressed interest in further discussion of this problem.

Speaking at the conference, the Estonian foreign minister voiced concern over the fact that Soviet military units pulled out of Germany and other East European countries are currently stationed in Kareliya and the Kolsky peninsula close to the Estonian border.

The ministers also discussed providing social aid to the military leaving the Baltics. Kozyrev put forward a proposal to set up an international fund for helping children of officers withdrawn from Eastern Europe and the Baltic states.

### Turkish Premier on Karabakh, Talks With Baker

*LD0903141392 Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Chelishev]

[Text] Istanbul, March 9 TASS—Turkey calls for an immediate ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh and is establishing the necessary contacts for the purpose, Turkish Prime Minister Hikmet Cetin announced on Sunday [8 March] after an extraordinary session of the Turkish Government.

The local media quotes Cetin as saying at a meeting with journalists both the neighbours of the two republics and the whole world are concerned over the Azeri-Armenian conflict.

We support efforts to settle the problem by peaceful means, but a ceasefire agreement should be signed to achieve the aim, Cetin pointed out. He also reminded that, according to decisions adopted within the framework of the Council for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Nagorno-Karabakh is considered to be part of Azerbaijan, and both sides should give up efforts to change the borders.

The Turkish minister said he had talked over the telephone with US Secretary of State James Baker and suggested that Washington should send its observers to the Caucasus to conduct negotiations with the warring parties. According to the minister, Baker has responded positively to the Turkish efforts and promised support.

Cetin is going to discuss a ceasefire agreement in Nagorno-Karabakh with foreign ministers of France, Great Britain and Italy.

Commenting on the Turkish Government's attitude to President Turgut Ozal's words that Armenians needed "a scare", Cetin said that the cabinet was not seeking adventures and would find an acceptable solution.

### Representative on CIS Joint Armed Forces

*LD0703045592 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0500 GMT 2 Mar 92*

[Text] A news conference on the problems of CIS military policy took place in Washington with representatives of security and defense committees from Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. The participants briefed journalists at the National Press Club on the principles of setting up a defense ministries in the former Soviet republics and the wide range of issues connected with CIS Armed Forces.

Kazakh representative Asan Nugmanov stressed the CIS cooperation in solving military problems for preserving friendship ties among Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, and other republics. He stated that Kazakhstan agrees to CIS Joint Armed Forces during the transitional period since Kazakhstan does not have the potential to establish its own army.

Until now, Kazakhstan, the second largest republic of the former Soviet Union in terms of area and one of the richest in mineral resources, was like a huge test site. Some 18 to 20 million hectares of land were different military test sites primarily for testing nuclear weapons. President Nursultan Nazarbayev issued a decree on banning nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk testing site despite a protest from the former Soviet government and military. Now there is a growing demand for banning any kind of weapons tests on Kazakh territory.

### Summit Working Group Releases Draft Agenda

*OW0603195392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The working group making preparations for the CIS leaders' summit in Kiev on March 20 has released a 19-item draft agenda. An economic package to be considered in Kiev includes agreements on property, debts and other assets of the former USSR, on sharing the holdings of the former State Bank and on the settlement of economic disputes between CIS industries.

The largest package is the military one, which includes a dozen items. Agreements on safeguarding the borders and 200 hundred mile zones, on supreme bodies' defence powers and on the legal basis and personnel and supply policies of the CIS armed forces are among them.

There is going to be an agreement on the CIS armed forces status over the transitional period, too.

The CIS leaders are going to consider a list of army units and installations included in the CIS armed forces. They are to appoint a chief of staff, commanders of the strategic forces and the commander-in-chief of the army.

The ratification and implementation of the Soviet-U.S. START and CFE treaties are likely to be discussed.

Well-informed sources say that Russia and a number of CIS member-states have amendments to the draft though it has been thoroughly studied by experts. They do not reject the possibility of making alterations in the document.

### Nagorno-Karabakh 366th Regiment To Be Disbanded

*LD0903102192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to official reports, all personnel and hardware of the 366th motorized infantry regiment have been withdrawn from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. The command of the Transcaucasus Military District has decided to relocate the regiment in Georgia. Here is how the military comments on this:

[Begin recording] [S.U. Bepayev, deputy commander of Transcaucasian Military District] Georgia has been chosen as the withdrawal point for this regiment for one reason only: If it withdraws to Azerbaijan, then Armenia naturally will lodge a major protest; if it withdraws to Armenia, then Azerbaijan would lodge a protest. Owing to this fact—and because Georgia is an absolutely neutral republic in the conflict—and having reached preliminary agreement with the leadership of the Republic of Georgia, it was decided to withdraw the regiment to Georgia.

[Unidentified correspondent] What have you done with the regiment? Where is it now?

[Bepayev] The regiment is to be disbanded upon its withdrawal. The officers' postings currently are being determined. Taking into account the officers' opinions as to where they would like to serve and since they have experienced very great hardship, we, the district command, are moving to meet their wishes. Most of them will be posted to the republics, oblasts, and towns of their choice to continue their service. [end recording]

### People's Deputy Cited on Reason for Congress

*LD0903061492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The existence of the CIS is a utopia, says Sazhi Umalatova, chairman of the organizational committee for the convocation of the sixth extraordinary congress of USSR people's deputies. The chairman's thoughts are revealed today in a PRAVDA interview. [passage omitted]

[Begin Umalatova recording] I think that women always feel misfortune more than men, but this is not meant to be derogatory to men. When the motherland is in danger, I think that women do not embark on polemics but attempt to make their contribution to save the country and people. Perhaps this sounds declamatory, but these are our aims today. We feel danger. We feel that if today the whole of Moscow is being sold off almost, then it is not out of the question that tomorrow Popov will want to sell Muscovites. [passage omitted]

We are absolutely sure that a coordinating center is needed to facilitate the survival of our economy and its whole structure [vsego khozyaystvovaniya]. We think that the Congress of People's Deputies and its structure will be this body, which will live and work for the sake of the republics and for the sake of all our people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### Gorbachev Supports Reforms, Criticizes CIS

*AU0903122892 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 2040 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Interview with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev by Klaus Bresser; place not given—live; Gorbachev statements in Russian with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Bresser] ZDF [Second German Television] has supplemented its program. We will now have 15 minutes with the man who was still president of the superpower Soviet Union two and a half months ago.

I know the Germans are interested in your answers, Mr. Gorbachev, but what about the people in your country? Is anybody still listening to you?

[Gorbachev] I think so. Most recently I had to give many speeches on various occasions, and I gave the last speech directly before my trip to Germany. The audience was the entire country—it was practically a marathon in which I engaged. Afghans came to me asking that I participate in direct (?negotiations). However, this does not mean that everyone agrees with me.

[Bresser] Anatoliy Sobchak, the mayor of St. Petersburg, suggested that you should run against Russian President Yeltsin as the leader of the opposition and be available as his successor if anything goes wrong. What do you think of that?

[Gorbachev] First, we get along well with each other personally and regarding policy. This understanding for each other exists. Second, I will stick strictly—these are my political rules—to what I promised Yeltsin. This is what I have told the country and the whole world. If Yeltsin continues these democratic reforms, I will not only be on his side and support him but also protect him. Of course, I may have some remarks to make and I may not agree with him on all counts, but I will support him. I want the reforms that are currently being implemented in Russia to be successful because the course I initiated in 1985 needs this success.

[Bresser] Do you support President Yeltsin because you do not have any other way of helping Russia?

[Gorbachev] This is not the issue. One is trying to mix up various things here—personal matters or something else—or build up differences. I think that we are all different. This is normal, it is even good, otherwise it would be boring. Second, I think that in politics the interests of the citizens, of society, and of the state must be considered supreme and that feelings of friendship or antipathy must be subordinated to these interests. They are of secondary importance.

Therefore, I do not see any obstacles at the moment to supporting Yeltsin's efforts for reform. If he should change his policy I will think about it and will adopt a specific position.

[Bresser] However, after your resignation you once said that you had lost a battle. Well, this saying continues with the words: ...but not the war. Do you intend to enter the political struggle again?

[Gorbachev] For me the struggle is the implementation of the course that I initiated in 1985. Someone once said that the battle is lost if the general renounces the fight. I do not renounce the choice that I made in 1985 and I will continue my policy, independent of what happens in the future, because I have already played my role—namely as Gorbachev—and I will continue to play this role in line with my ideas.

[Bresser] What has developed in the former Soviet Union—the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]—is a very shaky entity. There are rivalries and quarrels between the individual republics, even war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Will these conflicts continue? Will they continue with bloodshed? Will the CIS disintegrate?

[Gorbachev] This is the one question on which I do not agree with my colleagues, because I said that if there was no Union I would give up my post. I said this a long time ago, one or one-and- a-half years ago. I said that I could not envisage any work outside the Union because I do not believe in any other entities. As a politician—and the Germans understand this very well—I must pursue real-politik and not abstractions.

If today the Supreme Soviets of the various republics come out in favor of this commonwealth and claim that this commonwealth corresponds better to what is needed, at least at the time when a decision is made, I must assume a supporting position so that this difficult world is preserved. The interactions—also economic relations, cultural relations, and relations in the scientific area—are important because this world will crumble if these interactions are eliminated.

At the moment the CIS fulfills these tasks very badly. The CIS functions very badly. I regret very much having been a prophet whose prophecies have come true very quickly. I insist that all problems must be settled very quickly. Policy must be coordinated. Corresponding bodies must be established.

What kind of bodies, you will ask. A political council to settle political problems; a Security Council; a Supreme Command.

[Bresser] (?A joint army)?

[Gorbachev] No doubt. This is absolutely necessary. This is also recognized by the republics, apart from a few. The process has adopted this character. What is the use of Azerbaijan stating that it wants its own army. Mutalibov is now gone. He was able to make compromises and to look for such compromises. Gorbachev was not good enough for settling the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. However, at that time there were only a few casualties. What do we have now? War. And what is going to happen in the future? A dead end.

[Bresser] A specific question: Should the Soviet Army settle the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan?

[Gorbachev] No. The politicians must make the decision. Decisions must be made at the political level. The Army must not be involved in this conflict. There must be a meeting between the CIS heads of states, and they must make political decisions. One must not use the Army for this purpose and maneuver it into this situation. This is not policy but stupidity. This stupidity must be condemned.

[Bresser] Do you fear that the single totalitarian regime in the former Soviet Union will be replaced by several smaller dictatorial regimes; instead of one big monster a dozen smaller ones?

[Gorbachev] These fears exist at the moment. They might come true in two ways: Above all, if the CIS does not become efficient and viable and if the process of disintegration of the CIS continues, it cannot be ruled out that dictatorial regimes might develop in some states.

Second, the danger of these dictatorial regimes or authoritarian regimes—the latter would not be so terrible, of course—may develop if the economic and social difficulties increase. One must prevent this and for this purpose the reforms must be pushed ahead. The people are against dictatorship and against civil war.

[Bresser] Do you think that a putsch would still be possible now? If so, from which side would it come—from the old Communists or from the new nationalists?

[Gorbachev] I do not think that there will be another putsch. I think the biggest danger is the development of a perilous situation in the social field, because the situation on the market is very strained, and if the politicians are lagging behind the developments and do not establish any social safeguards for the people—I am thinking of the liberalization of prices—and if the government is unable to act accordingly, because this can only be done within the framework of the CIS, there will be no free movement of capital and then cooperation will suffer. The number of unemployed will rise, and then all this might lead to the biggest blow against this commonwealth being dealt from this side.

The most important question is who will exploit this situation. One must find an answer, and this means that the democrats must not sleep and they must not spend a lot of time discussing who is the greatest democrat—which is done with great pleasure. Now one has to solve questions of coordination in order to unite all democratic forces. One needs a block of democratic forces, which supports these democratic reforms so that a market develops as quickly as possible and we get out of this situation.

[Bresser] Democracy will have little success if the people's lives in the former Soviet Union continue to be bad. The economic situation in the Soviet Union is disastrous, and economic experts have said that Yeltsin's government has lost control over the economic process. Only strict state regulation could pave the way for the market. Is this your view, too?

[Gorbachev] I would say the following: I have asked all economic schools about the economy's assessment of the situation. Most asked for more time to give an answer, and no one has given me a final answer yet. However, everyone said that these reforms must be continued, that they must be corrected in order to promote the producers accordingly and not to suppress the initiative that they are developing, so that the decline in production is not so strong. The weak strata of the population must also be protected. Further steps must be thoroughly considered. This work is being done. This is the first point.

Second, stopping the reforms would be the worst one could do, the worst scenario.

Third, I hope that this will lead to an important argument for making the CIS efficient as quickly as possible. If this is not done, there will not be any positive developments in any of the republics, not even in Russia where Yeltsin is. I have told him this directly. The country knows it, and I am also telling you this.

The claim that one can be self-sufficient in Russia and in Ukraine is a bluff, I tell you, because the world is as it is. The reality is that one has to cooperate. One has to take these realities into consideration. The reforms can make progress only if the CIS is turned into a commonwealth that is able to act effectively. The issue is cooperation within the framework of this commonwealth.

[Bresser] Does this mean that Ukraine's independence is a bluff for you?

[Gorbachev] For me Ukraine's independence means as much as Russia's independence or as Kazakhstan's independence. They must take advantage of the opportunity of sovereignty, but they cannot avoid coordinating their policy and the rules in this economic area. They cannot avoid coordinating their actions in science and technology and also in the defense area. Even now one can see that they must also coordinate foreign policy and foreign trade policy.

I have used a very strong formulation when I said that what is taking place now resembles the meeting of a gypsy camp. This process of disintegration disturbs the process of reform. In this country one can get out of the crisis only together. No one will make it on his own, not even Russia, because a very acute phase will come, chaos, and in chaos completely different structures will emerge.

[Bresser] But is cooperation enough. According to impressions you gained during your trip through the FRG, the country of the economic miracle, can a free market economy really be organized in your country, which has never known free enterprise? Can it work?

[Gorbachev] It works in eastern Germany. Why should it not work in our country. We have very good people, people who are even feared in the west.

[Bresser] A last question, Mr. President [title as heard]. In the east the Lenin monuments are now being torn down. Can you imagine that one day Gorbachev monuments will be built?

[Gorbachev] This question does not deserve any closer examination, probably no examination at all. Successful reform would itself be a monument, if this path is followed to its end for the benefit of the people who live there, and for the benefit of all Europeans and of all the world. This would be a monument. We must establish this monument together. All other things are trifles.

[Bresser] Thank you, Mr. President.

## Regions Said To Withhold Subscription Dues

*PM0803215592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 92 p 2*

[Viktor Kozhemyako report: "We Will Get Nothing by Waiting"]

[Text] The "Pressa" (formerly "Pravda") Publishing House puts out dozens of newspapers and journals. Accordingly it distributes subscription orders for central publications in the republics that have become independent states and in the Russian Federation's regions.

Previously, money due from a subscription arrived punctually at the publishing house immediately after the subscription was taken out. And now? We are already well into March, but the publishing house has not yet received subscription sums for 1992 from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, Armenia and Georgia, Chechen-Ingushetia and Riga, and a number of other places.

What is going on? The local organs of the former Main Administration for the Distribution of Printed Matter are not giving any instructive answers. But various guesses can be made. This, for example: In some places people took advantage of the general disorder reigning in all spheres of our life and simply decided to appropriate, to stash away, other people's money. They say that charity begins at home and that one's own needs always come first. Meanwhile this is turning into yet another threat jeopardizing the regular appearance of central publications. "Pressa" Publishing House staffers are appealing: Just remember, comrades, that one good turn deserves another!

## TASS Carries Press Review for 7 Mar

*LD0703072492 Moscow TASS in English 0656 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] Moscow March 7 TASS—All Moscow-based newspapers today carry articles marking the traditional women's day—March 8.

"The March 8 holiday is international only partially," PRAVDA writes in particular.

"The difference is that most countries do not celebrate the date but take care of women on all other days and not only present flowers. In ten countries women are at the helm of the state. Quite the contrary is the case in this country. The current period's principal try-and-error method hits women more painfully than others. We depart farther and farther from a solution to the problem, which the civilised world long began to tackle."

Ukraine is linked with Russia by thousands of trade, cultural and ethnic bonds, and it would be naive to even think about breaking them off, President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine, said in an interview with RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper. He said Ukraine adopted documents which remove obstacles to the conclusion of economic treaties between republics.

Speaking about the destiny of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Kravchuk said "the CIS has a great potential, which is illustrated by the fact that about 50 important documents aimed at resolving common problems have already been adopted." But the future of the CIS directly depends on how the accords will be implemented, the president of Ukraine emphasised.

"However legitimate and understandable is the aspiration of the countries in the former Soviet Union to have armies of their own, this should be done in a civilised manner, with due regard for the interests of the other CIS countries," Colonel General Boris Pyankov, leader of a group of military experts on matters aimed at creating armed forces in the independent states of the CIS, told the newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR).

Armed forces that are being formed in sovereign states of the CIS should be used only to repulse an outside aggression, Pyankov said. In his view, developments concerning Nagorno-Karabakh give rise to serious apprehensions as to "whether some politicians would be able to refrain from using their national armed forces to resolve political or territorial problems."

Newspapers continue to discuss problems underlying the situation at the flashpoints in the CIS. Commenting on a statement by NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner that NATO would act if the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Karabakh spreads to Turkish territory across the border, PRAVDA writes:

"Unfortunately, there is no one to tell NATO with utter clarity to keep away from the borders of the Soviet Union, even the former one.

"Presidents in the CIS! Either you muster strength and, putting all other business aside, settle the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh or you will lose the respect and trust of the peoples that elected you. It is simply shameful to apply to the United Nations for help to end the conflict."

"The entire previous experience of UN peacekeeping operations has convincingly shown: It is senseless and dangerous to use troops for the establishment of peace," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes.

"A basically different mission rests with UN troops: to maintain peace. Are the parties involved in the Karabakh conflict capable of reaching a cease-fire accord, the parties that went to such lengths of ferocity that spare neither women nor children?

"Under these conditions, it is naive, to say the least, to hope that the UN Security Council would risk introducing UN forces to the area which is the focus of such a carnage. Just as it would be naive to hope in general that good men in blue helmets or in any other helmets would resolve our own problems."

PRAVDA subjects to a critical analysis the Russian leadership's approach to the problem of relations with the United States.

"One must always remember that Western politicians, primarily those in Washington, have always proceeded and will proceed from their own interests. We get surprised so far: How come, we love America while America loves...China. The newest technology is not sold to Russia and at the same time Washington lifts the ban on the delivery of most up-to-date computers to China.

"It is no wonder, though. This is of benefit to the U.S. China has not yet simply 'grown up' to be America's main opponent. One should know who one deals with. Particularly in love. Disappointments in it are not only sad but dangerous, too," PRAVDA concludes.

Under the headline "Little Secrets of the 'White House'," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA runs a column of materials dealing with little known peculiarities of the activities and everyday work of the Russian parliament and its staff.

## International Affairs

### U.S. Offered Talks After Submarine Accident

*OW0603155492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1531 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has offerd the US to hold talks on defining the territorial waters in order to avoid the incidents similar to the one in the Barents Sea on February 11, when a CIS and US nuclear submarines were damaged as a result of a collision. The aftermath might have been much more serious, taking into account that both submarines had nuclear reactors and were equipped with ballistic missiles.

The Russian Foreign Ministry handed a corresponding note to a representative of the US Embassy in Moscow. Concurrently, the CIS military command and the Russian Foreign Ministry offered the US to continue the talks on defining the territorial waters, interrupted in 1990.

DP was told at the Russian Foreign Ministry that the sides had different approaches to the problem. "We define our territorial waters stemming from the extreme points of the coastline, while the US believes that the territorial waters should be parallel to the coastline curve," said a diplomat in charge of Russian-American relations.

The Foreign Ministry does not know yet when such talks might start.

### Yeltsin Favors Troops in SFRY UN Force

*LD0603224792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Yeltsin reportedly is of the opinion that participation in the UN operations in Yugoslavia will help Russia to boost its international prestige. Experience of direct participation in UN peacekeeping activities is valuable from the viewpoint of our internal problems, the Russian president stressed.

It is not easy to disagree with that: We have more domestic problems with fighting than we can handle.

### Battalion To Join UN Forces

*LD0603230392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1031 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Mar (TASS)—Government Deputy Chairman Sergey Shakhray has set out the position of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin to parliamentarians. He stressed that, according to the existing rules, UN forces do not take part in any combat operations. The mandate of the UN military personnel is strictly limited to peacekeeping tasks and to monitoring the cease- fire agreement in Yugoslavia, which has already been reached and is in force.

The decision of the Russian parliament was made in response to a request by the UN secretary general for Russia to contribute one infantry battalion to the peacekeeping forces of this international organization. The parliamentary committees and commissions were instructed to monitor the formation of the Russian military contingent, which will have a strength of up to 900 men.

### Transfer Schedule Reported

*LD0903131892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1206 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Mar (TASS)—Late March-early April is provisionally scheduled for the transfer to Yugoslavia of a special Russian Federation battalion, which will carry out peacekeeping tasks as part of the UN forces. As has been reported, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet gave its agreement on 6 March for a military contingent to take part in the UN peacekeeping operation in Yugoslavia. President Boris Yeltsin addressed an appeal to parliament on this.

Colonel General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, commander of airborne assault troops, said in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent today that the relevant timeframe is between 25 March and 5 April. According to the general, the agreed area and procedure for transferring the battalion already have been determined. The personnel of the unit (900 men) most probably will be dispatched to Yugoslavia by air, while equipment and kits will go by sea and rail, Podkolzin said. A group of officers from the battalion will fly out to Yugoslavia from 12 to 13 March to carry out field reconnaissance.

### 'Concern' Noted

*LD0903131192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1144 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Mar (TASS)—"We in Moscow are following the development of events in Bosnia-Hercegovina with concern," says a statement by a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman which was received at ITAR-TASS today.

"We are pleased that there are signs of some stabilization of the situation and positive elements of harmony among the main political forces in the Republic.

"We strongly urge the representatives of all the peoples of Bosnia-Hercegovina to continue showing responsibility and good sense and to strive to resolve all disputes

exclusively by peaceful political means, with unfailing observance of the legitimate interests of the Republic's ethnic communities. In our view, an opportunity for such a solution is offered by direct talks between the sides, which evidently ought to be continued with the aim of achieving a package of accords acceptable to all three peoples of the Republic.

"Such an agreement would receive full understanding and support in Moscow. Its attainment would create favorable conditions for a UN operation and would give a boost to the search for a comprehensive settlement of the Yugoslav crisis."

### Kozyrev on Baltic Council Talks in Denmark

*LD0603235992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2142 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Nikolay Bukolov, Aleksandr Sidorov, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Copenhagen, 7 Mar (TASS)—The deliberations and results of the first session of the Council of Baltic States, which closed here on 6 March, have generated considerable interest among the local mass media. This is understandable, since a new and important step has been taken in promoting cooperation and broadening links between the Baltic states in a fundamentally new environment, when all states of the region, as said by Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, are free and independent.

Speaking to a group of Russian journalists covering the Copenhagen forum, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev noted that its principal result, as he sees it, is "That all the participants understand the need to create specific mechanisms for genuinely democratic and friendly cooperation and interaction in the vast Baltic Sea region." Andrey Kozyrev said that Russia and the other participating countries had put forward "a number of practical ideas in this respect." He recalled that at the session he had proposed creating the post of commissar at the council for human and ethnic minority rights. This, he said, essentially assumes protection for the Russian-speaking community in the Baltic republics and would be "a rebuff to the red-and-brown wave of nationalism."

### Comments on Ethnic Minorities

*OW0603161692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1349 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has accused Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania of violating international laws in relation to ethnic minorities. On March 5, in Copenhagen, the Russian foreign minister spoke at the conference of the ten Baltic states' foreign ministers.

"We have to express concern about the moves of our Baltic supported partners, the more so since the Russian democrats the Baltic states' struggle for their sovereign rights," said Andrey Kozyrev. He also reminded the audience that the Russian parliamentary committee for international affairs finds it impossible to ratify the Russian-Lithuanian political treaty because, he said, the latter does not defend the rights of the non-indigenous population. Earlier, the Latvian parliament qualified the inclusion of the Abrene region into Russia as illegal (until 1940 this region belonged to Latvia and, following Latvia's joining the USSR, was included in the Pskov region—BF [BALTFAX]). Such a move caused a painful reaction in the Russian parliament.

Andrey Kozyrev said that Russia was equally concerned about the position of the non-indigenous population in Estonia and Lithuania. He said, however, that so far there were no reasons to speak about a crisis in relations between Russia and the Baltic states.

He expressed hope that the council of the Baltic states which is being currently established would ensure the implementation of the Helsinki agreements, particularly in what concerns the observation of human rights and of the principle of inviolability of the borders.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas was surprised by Andrey Kozyrev's speech. He told journalists in Copenhagen following the plenary meeting on March 5, that Lithuania observed all the agreements reached with Russia, including those dealing with the rights of ethnic minorities.

He told BF that the Lithuanian Republic's official position on the Kaliningrad region went against the opinion of the Lithuanian ambassador to the US, who said in an interview that this region should belong to Lithuania. The government of Lithuania advances no territorial claims to its neighbors, he said.

### Kozyrev on Human Rights

*LD0603233592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Excerpts] The first meeting of the Baltic sea states concluded in Copenhagen today by adopting a Baltic Council declaration. Viktor Levin, our special correspondent, is in the Danish capital:

[Levin] I have just returned from a final news conference by the prime ministers of 10 countries, where results of the Baltic Council session were summed up. [passage omitted]

Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, paid main attention to the problem of human rights. Having drawn attention to the violation of the Russian-speaking population's rights in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, as well as to the danger of nationalist extremism in Russia itself, he put forward the idea of setting up the post of commissioner for human rights and national minorities. [passage omitted]

Danish Foreign Minister Ellemann-Jensen explained with a good-natured smile that the statement had been prepared before the NATO Council session, [as heard] while the Russian minister added that the ministers had agreed not only with the ideas developed earlier, but also put forward constructive proposals. There will be a council commissioner for human rights, and this will help to part with the legacy left to certain peoples in the Baltic Sea region by "isms," such as fascism, communism, or nationalism, Andrey Kozyrev said at the news conference. [passage omitted]

### More on Minority Rights

*MK0703101592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Mar 92 p 1*

[Vladimir Abarinov report: "Balts Surprised. Talk Turns to Human Rights at Conference of Baltic Countries"]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, addressed the conference of Baltic countries' foreign ministers 5 March in Copenhagen. In particular, he criticized the Baltic countries' official policy regarding ethnic minorities.

"Russians' democratic convictions allow us to regard criticism of us as support," the minister declared. "But these same convictions make us frankly express concern at the actions of some of our Baltic partners. Especially as the Russian democrats sided with them in upholding their sovereign rights. Today we propose upholding human rights together, including the rights of Russians in the Baltic countries.

"However, the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee on Interregional Relations did not deem it possible to recommend ratification of the treaty with Latvia because of the unsatisfactory situation regarding the rights of non-Latvian nationals. Russia's people's deputies reacted sharply to the Latvian Supreme Council resolution of 22 January this year, which essentially made territorial claims against Russia. Deputies' concern is also aroused by questions of ensuring the rights of the Russian-speaking population in Estonia and Lithuania. I must say here that this criticism of ours in no way signifies a crisis in relations. Moreover, it should be a natural sign of their friendly nature."

The minister proposed setting up the post of commissioner for human and ethnic minority rights within the framework of the Council of Baltic States set up at the conference.

We would remind you that as recently as this week our Vladimir Razuvayev came out with rather harsh criticisms of the Russian Foreign Ministry, which he thinks is ignoring the problem of the Russian-speaking population in neighboring countries.

Kozyrev's Baltic counterparts were quick to respond in kind, however. Algirdas Saudargas, the head of Lithuanian diplomacy, expressed "surprise" at his Russian colleague's remarks and stressed that the episode over the ethnic minorities would not prevent the conference from achieving its objectives. For his part Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri expressed regret that his country is still occupied by Russian troops.

It is probably worth noting in conclusion that in the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva the Russian delegation has confirmed its commitment to democratic principles: It was among the 23 countries to vote in favor of a resolution harshly condemning the Castro government over human rights. Twenty-one countries abstained in the vote. Eight countries, including Cuba, Iraq, China, and Libya, voted against.

### Talks With Danish Counterpart

*LD0703191592 Moscow TASS in English 1706 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Nikolay Vukolov, Aleksandr Sidorov, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Copenhagen, March 7 TASS—Russian-Danish talks were held here today within the framework of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's working visit to Denmark.

After the talks, Kozyrev and Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen signed three documents: a joint statement on the 500th anniversary of the establishment of treaty relations between Russia and Denmark, a protocol on consular representative offices and the Russian-Danish-Greenlandic agreement on cooperation in fishing.

After the signing ceremony, the two countries' foreign ministers spoke to journalists.

"In talks with my Russian colleague, we focused our attention on bilateral relations," Ellemann-Jensen said. "The 500th anniversary of the establishment of treaty relations between Russia and Denmark will be marked next year. During this long time, our countries went through different periods, but it is important to note that Russia and Denmark never fought with each other.

"We also discussed a wide range of international issues of concern to us. I want to emphasise that the atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding dominated our talks," Ellemann-Jensen said.

"Not only do we return to normal relations between our countries. Also, we aspire to assert friendly allied relations with Denmark, based on universally-shared human values, for another 500 years to come," Kozyrev said.

"We have a very good agenda for future cooperation. Its specificity is that the partners take into account each other's interests and that several regions and their local administrations directly participate in it. Together with the representative of Greenland's Government, we have just signed an agreeement on cooperation in fishing, which is the specific example of this cooperation.

"The Russian delegation includes representatives of St. Petersburg and the Kaliningrad region, who prepared drafts to develop transport, tourism and investments. These two regions allow Russia to conduct matters directly with Denmark and are our 'window to the Baltics' with the iron curtain pulled down, the window that will be open wide for mutually advantageous cooperation with all countries in the region," Kozyrev said.

"As for our future relations, Denmark seeks to give all-round aid to Russia in creating a market economy," Ellemann-Jensen emphasised. "At present, we extend humanitarian aid both on the bilateral and multilateral basis to your country. We also discussed today the problem of Denmark's participation in building housing for servicemen returning home from several countries in the region.

"Prospects for our relations are very bright. We encourage our businessmen to put up money in the Russian economy and form joint ventures. An agreement was reached that a Danish delegation will visit the Kaliningrad region shortly to map out on the spot specific projects of cooperation.

"We are opening a consulate in St. Petersburg. I would like to point out that contacts and links between Denmark and Russia, their peoples have never been as close and versatile as now."

In a reply to a query from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Kozyrev emphasised the Kaliningrad region is a peculiar Klondike for the investment of capital not only in the economy. The Kaliningrad region is the Russian land in the Baltics that serves as a kind of "a show-window of development and openness" in the region.

Kozyrev left Denmark and headed to Norway on a working visit today.

### Kozyrev Delivers Speech

*LD0803063792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1938 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Nikolay Vukolov, Aleksandr Sidorov, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Copenhagen, 6 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is in Denmark on a working visit, spoke today at a dinner given in his honor by Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen. Leading Danish businessmen were present at the dinner.

Our strengthening partnership with Denmark, a country that is geared to the future and linked to Russia by many historical ties, is important to us, the Russian minister commented. We would like to have this cooperation be a reliable support on our path to European and world civilization. Truely historic changes are taking place in Russia now, effectively leading to a fundamental restructuring of the social and economic system that used to exist, Kozyrev stressed. The economy is switching to the ways of the market and free enterprise. It is being integrated into the world community.

The main elements of this process are stabilization of the economy, strengthening of the national currency, widescale privatization, and implementation of far-reaching agrarian reform. Only a radical reform such as this is capable of extricating the country from crisis and giving scope to initiative and to the effective use of Russia's enormous resources.

The speeding up of reforms in Russia, the minister continued, is connected with its inclusion into the world community. The country will become a more attractive partner for the whole world if it sets up a market mechanism. He noted that according to the plan Russia will become a full member of the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in April. The issue of setting up a stabilization fund to bring in internal convertibility of the ruble is being actively discussed. Russia is trying to expand its cooperation with the EEC right up to participating in the formation of a single market in Europe in the future and to becoming a member of the community, Kozyrev pointed out.

Russia is planning to take an active part in the implementation of the European energy charter, in the creation of the system of high-speed railways in Europe, and in activities of the Baltic Council. Russia is also planning actively to attract foreign investments. In this case direct capital investments will become especially important. In order to create the atmosphere of trust, one has to set up a system of ensuring foreign investments, to adopt new laws on natural resources, concessions, deposits, and private ownership, and so on. The work on the setting up of an international fund for ensuring foreign investments in Russia is also underway, he said.

Kozyrev appealed to Danish businessmen to take a more active part in this work. Denmark's geographical proximity to Kaliningrad Oblast and St. Petersburg and the convenience of sea connections naturally make us business partners. Possibilities for cooperation in the field of agriculture, processing of agricultural output, and agricultural machine-building must be pointed out here. The minister said that Danish support of Russian farms, the organization of training farmers in Russia, their supplementary training in Denmark, the setting up of model farms in the northwest of Russia, supplies of seeds, machines, and equipment for peasants' farms can be of great assistance.

Our common task, he continued, is also the protection of the Baltic Sea and cooperation in creating natural protection and diagnostic equipment. A project for creating a south Baltic road through the FRG, Poland, Kaliningrad, and St. Petersburg right up to Helsinki may be of interest to Danish firms. These firms may participate in the conversion of Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg shipbuilding industries and in extending ports in these areas.

Kozyrev recalled that 500 years ago our ancestors signed the first treaty between Russia and Denmark. Over the

centuries our countries have never fought each other. Today we have signed a declaration on the creation of a council of Baltic Sea states, without breaking the links of time. We hope, Kozyrev stressed, that this will open a new page in cooperation on the Balitc shores and in Danish-Russian relations.

### Meets With Finnish Minister

*LD0803033192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1058 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Nikolay Vukolov, Aleksandr Sidorov, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Copenhagen, 6 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting between Russian Foreign Minister A. V. Kozyrev and Finnish Foreign Minister P. Vayrynen, who are both taking part in the first session of the Baltic Council, was held here today.

The two leaders discussed bilateral issues including strengthening and expanding the contractual and legal basis for Russian-Finnish relations, and some practical steps to create additional possibilities for contacts and communication between the peoples of the two countries. Opening additional checkpoints on the Russian-Finnish border in the near future and simplifying procedures for reciprocal visits were on the agenda.

The ministers had a detailed conversation regarding prospects for the all-European process, the potential of which is still to be fully opened in a number of fields. This relates to economic cooperation and creating mechanisms for peacekeeping. Having underscored the remaining anxiety with regard to the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the ministers exchanged opinions on the possibility of using the CSCE for regulating this conflict situation.

During the conversation the need was stressed for thorough preparations for the forthcoming CSCE meeting at the foreign ministerial level in Helsinki. This meeting will be a major event in the life of the European Continent.

### Kozyrev Arrives in Sweden, Begins Talks

*LD0803082992 Moscow TASS in English 0812 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valeriy Loskutov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Oslo, March 8 TASS—Talks between Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Norwegian counterpart, Thorvald Stoltenberg, began in the Norwegian capital on Sunday morning [8 March].

The two foreign ministers are discussing matters aimed at further developing bilateral relations and cooperation and topical regional problems.

Kozyrev arrived here on Saturday [7 March] night from Copenhagen where he had stayed on a working visit and attended the first session of the council of the Baltic Sea states.

### Signs Joint Protocol

*LD0803164792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1157 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vitaliy Loskutov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Oslo, 8 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—A joint protocol on a working program for developing contacts and cooperation between the Russian Federation and Norway was signed at the end of talks between Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev and Norwegian Foreign Minister T. Stoltenberg at the Norwegian Foreign Ministry earlier today.

The document notes that deep changes in Europe have created a favorable basis for good-neighborliness and close interaction between the two states. The parties think that intensive, regular political dialogue and contacts are an important precondition for developing and deepening relations. The Norwegian side invited Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary and first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, to pay an official visit to Norway within this framework. The Russian minister invited Norwegian Foreign Minister Stoltenberg to visit Russia.

The document stresses that the Russian Federation is a successor state of the Soviet Union and that Russia will fulfill bilateral and multilateral international obligations and agreements concluded by the USSR. The ministers agreed to start preparing immediately a joint statement on the principles for developing relations between the Russian Federation and Norway.

As for the problem of demarcating the continental shelf and economic zones in the Barents Sea, the ministers agreed on the need to expedite talks to solve the issue and on a new round of working consultations at expert level in Moscow in April.

The economic department heads [as received] focused on the economic cooperation problem, noting that Russia's wide-scale reforms to create an open market economy create new possibilities for developing trade, economic, and scientific-technical ties and credit-financial cooperation between Russia and Norway. These contacts will continue on the basis of existing agreements and accords. The sides also agreed to conclude an agreement on mutual promotion and protection of investments.

The sides considered concrete projects for developing cooperation. On power engineering, the Norwegian side invited Russian partners to the first joint forum on power engineering and environment, scheduled to take place in Oslo at a political level some time in 1992. The

ministers focused on the forthcoming meeting at a political level between oil-producing and oil-consuming countries in Bergen in July.

On fishing, the sides stressed that they intend to promote further development of fishing cooperation on the basis of mutual commercial and scientific contacts between enterprises, organizations, and firms, including setting up scientific collectives and other cooperation bodies. The Russian side proposed setting up a single, independent, scientific-research center for monitoring and forecasting Barents Sea resources.

On the environment, the ministers agreed to hold a session of a mixed commission on cooperation before the end of April. Russian-North European cooperation on modernizing the metallurgical combine "Nechenganikel" in the Kola Peninsula; on nuclear security, inter alia at the Kola nuclear power station; on storing and eliminating nuclear waste, including waste from nuclear reactors; and on the issue of radioactive waste burials in the Barents Sea will be considered.

The protocol speaks about developing border ties and cooperation in the north. Specifically, the sides agreed to promote contacts between regional authorities in northern Norway and northwestern Russia, to expand ties between indigenous peoples of the North in the two countries, and to facilitate border contacts by introducing a simplified entry and exit procedure.

The ministers agreed on the question of opening Russia's general consulate in Troms and Norway's general consulates in St. Petersburg and Murmansk soon and on considering the issue of founding honorary consulates, namely, a Russian honorary consulate in Kirkenes and a Norwegian honorary consulate in Nikel.

### Ends Talks

*LD0803173192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1437 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS "special correspondents" Valeriy Loskutov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Oslo, 8 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russian and Norwegian Foreign Ministers Andrey Kozyrev and Thorvald Stoltenberg, respectively, held a joint news conference at the conclusion of the Russian-Norwegian talks at the Norwegian Foreign Ministry today.

Kozyrev noted that the "balance and boldness of approaches" during the talks, which were specific and broad, made them very useful.

The Russian minister told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the joint protocol signed in Oslo is "a manifestation of a joint Russian-Norwegian desire to work together to create favorable bases of good-neighborliness and cooperation between the two states." Kozyrev noted that there currently are no ideological obstacles to or apprehensions about this kind of development of ties and cooperation between the two countries as a result of Norway's NATO membership. In the minister's words, NATO membership provides additional opportunities for strengthening regional political stability. The minister stressed that the range of issues discussed was very broad and that there are still problems which must be resolved, particularly the problem of demarcating the continental shelf in the Barents Sea. The minister concluded that difficult talks may be ahead, but that the main thing is that the sides are willing to work together to settle them as friends and partners.

The Norwegian minister felt the meetings and conversation were highly useful. The document signed is very specific, and joint work to implement its clauses must begin. Stoltenberg told the correspondents that Norway is willing to provide all possible assistance to Russia's democratic reform processes. One such manifestation of these efforts will be the provision of humanitarian aid to Russia's northern regions. Norwegian organizations providing this aid are monitoring most carefully its delivery and distribution "so that it reaches precisely those who need it," he said.

### Kozyrev Arrives in Brussels; Agenda Detailed

*LD0803175392 Moscow TASS in English 1735 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Shashkov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Brussels, March 8 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Brussels today to attend a special session of the North Atlantic Council of Cooperation opening here on March 10.

The Council, which was set up last December to promote cooperation between NATO countries and Eastern Europe, will grant membership to ten Commonwealth states.

Kozyrev will also meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Both leaders are expected to attend a meeting devoted to the opening of a centre in Moscow to promote scientific research in Russia. The centre, which will be financed by the European Community, the United States, Japan and Canada, aims to stop the exodus of nuclear physicists from Russia.

On Monday [9 March], Kozyrev will meet with his Belgian counterpart Willy Claes to discuss bilateral relations and cooperation between Russia and Belgium.

The Russian foreign minister will also hold talks with Jacques Delors, chairman of the European Communities, and EC foreign ministers.

### Foreign Minister Kozyrev Begins Belgium Visit

*LD0903071692 Moscow TASS in English 0522 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Shashkov and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Brussels, March 9 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev begins his stay in Belgium with a meeting with European Community President Jacques Delors today. Later, he will meet Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes.

On Tuesday [10 March], Kozyrev will attend a special session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council as the forum, set up last December to expand contacts between NATO member-states and Eastern Europe, extends membership to members of the CIS. During a visit to the Belgian capital, he will also meet EC foreign ministers and hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

### Minister Kozyrev To Visit Japan 20-22 March

*OW0903123192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1105 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the end of this month Russia's foreign minister Andrey Kozyrev sets out on a tour of Asia, during which he will visit Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo.

According to the Japanese embassy in Moscow, Kozyrev's working visit to Japan will tentatively take place on March 20-22. Central attention during the Tokyo negotiations is expected to be given to bilateral relations, including the Russo-Japanese territorial dispute.

According to the Russian foreign ministry, Kozyrev intends to do his best for President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to Japan, due in mid-September, to be a success.

### Kozyrev on Israel's Role in Peace Talks

*LD0703115392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign minister, has called on Israel to show greater pragmatism for the sake of the success of the peace talks on the Middle East. In an interview with the Saudi AL-YAWM, he stated that Israel is stressing procedural matters at the talks and bypassing the basic problems. Kozyrev said that one of these was recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

The Russian minister announced that within the next few days his country—our republic of Russia—would be holding separate contacts with those participating in the Middle East peace talks.

### SPA Cites Kozyrev Statement on Saudi Arabia

*LD0703233792 Riyadh SPA in English 1927 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] al-Dammam, March 7, SPA—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has expressed his country's appreciation and respect to Kingdom under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd. In a press statement published on Saturday [7 March], Kozyrev said relations between the Kingdom and Russia were witnessing positive development in all fields. He said the upcoming few months would witness further steps toward the enhancement of cooperation between the two countries.

Kozyrev said his country welcomes a friendship and a relationship with the Kingdom because of the latter's weight in the Middle East as one of the effective and influential parties. The Kingdom's international and Arabic weight has enabled to become one of the first Middle East countries to play an effective role in the drafting of the new world order.

The Russian minister praised the Kingdom's support for the CIS during the past month and its aid to them in order to overcome their economic difficulties. Kozyrev also hailed the courageous stand of the Kingdom during the Gulf crisis. He said the world leadership and peoples were looking to the Kingdom with deep respect and appreciation.

### Supply Agreement With Lithuania Detailed

*OW0603185192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1827 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] First Vice-Premier of Russia Gennadiy Burbulis and Prime Minister of Lithuania Gediminas Vagnorius signed in Moscow March 6 agreements on mutual shipments for 1992.

Russia pledges to supply to Lithuania 3 million tons of oil at world prices (the demand is about 10 million tons of annually), 4.1 billion cubic meters of natural gas (the demand is 6.3 billion), as well as nuclear fuel for the Ignalinskaya atomic power station. Lithuania has also received the permission to import an additional 2.5 million tons [as received] of oil provided directly by Russian enterprises on the contract basis.

Lithuanian Deputy Economic Minister Vitas Navickas told BF [BALTFAX] that before the agreements were signed Russia made some amendments to a volume of metal supplies to Lithuania: they were cut from 210,000 tons down to 110,000. Navickas said that Lithuania's annual metal demand is nearly 220,000 tons.

In its turn, Lithuania will provide Russia with 70,000 tons of meat, 400,000 tons of milk and dairy products at world prices. Mutual fuel and food supplies can be paid in small clearing (dollars only).

Lithuania plans to supply electric power to the Kaliningrad region of Russia. Russia will receive goods which Lithuania manufactured as a monopolist while being

part of the USSR, among them autocompressors, pulverizers for tanks and tractors, components for TV sets, micro-chips for military industry.

Lithuania intends to provide Russia with 90,000 tons of gasoline and 90,000 tons of diesel fuel produced by the Mazeikai oil- processing plant. The plant will receive from Russia daily 16,000 tons of oil for continuous production process. Lithuania will also deliver to Russia "black boxes" for the airplane-building industry.

In the opinion of Navickas, Lithuania has "achieved more" than Latvia and Estonia in getting supplies from Russia. With Russian supplies, Latvia and Estonia will be able to meet only 40% of their energy demands.

### Talks on Troops Withdrawal From Latvia End

*LD0603231292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] Talks in Moscow between government and parliamentary groups from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia concerning Russian troops in Latvia, have ended. Latvia proposes completing the process of withdrawing troops of the Baltic military district by the fall of 1993. The Russian leadership's position on this issue is not yet clear; neither is the fate of army property. Russia is claiming it all; Latvia agrees only to part with weapons and military equipment.

### Additional Troops Denied

*LD0703185492 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 2030 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] The leadership of Russia's northwestern group of Armed Forces denies reports that troops stationed in Latvia were recently supplemented with men called up for military service. We remind that the Latvian Defense Ministry reported this, reproaching the Russian side for not adhering to agreements on the Army's withdrawal from Latvia. Command representatives say that soldiers can only move from one unit to another within Latvia.

### Forces Placed Under Republican Jurisdiction

*OW0603164092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree has placed all military units in Germany, Poland, Mongolia and Cuba under republican jurisdiction. The measure was taken to maintain stable control and functioning of army units, as well as to give the former servicemen of the USSR Armed forces and their families social guarantees.

The presidential decree says that until a Russian Defence Ministry is formed these units will be subordinate to the Commander-in-Chief of the CIS allied forces. Russia will finance all army units temporarily present on the territory of the aforesaid countries. President Yeltsin has appointed Colonel-General Pavel Grachev the Russian Federation's officer in charge of the presence and withdrawal of troops from those countries.

### Commentary Says CIA Shifting Focus to Japan

*LD0303215292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1910 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] AFP reports that the U.S. Administration has proposed a 30-billion dollar budget for next year's intelligence operations. Sergey Sayenko has this commentary.

The sum is close to spending levels at the height of the cold war between the East and the West when the CIA budget nearly doubled. The Washington administration is unlikely, however, to scale it down in the future. The main argument for the moment being that cutting back on the military budget makes the intelligence activity even more significant.

Of course any government has the right to determine how much it will cost to provide for national security using such means as intelligence operations, but without interference into other states' internal affairs, as it was in the history of American secret services.

According to latest reports, the American intelligence services are being restructured since the priority has changed. The prestigious American sources say now that the Soviet Union and the world socialist system have disintegrated the concerns of the U.S. central intelligence lie not with the former Soviet Union or China or other communist countries but with the American ally Japan.

Certainly the United States will hardly give up collecting information about the Commonwealth or China but the emphasis in this activity has shifted to Japan. The reason is a warming in relations between the East and the West and notably in Soviet-American relations. Besides, Japan causes ever more trouble to the United States in the world and domestic markets. That is why CIA experts plan a serious study of the country of rising sun.

According to the Japanese news media, since last year the Americans stepped up their search for experts in Japanese studies for the Central Intelligence Agency, versed in the economics and electronics. Emphasis on Japanese studies means a radical change in priorities of this prestigious American intelligence service.

### Rutskoy, Iranian Minister Discuss Cooperation

*LD0703054492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1738 GMT 4 Mar 92*

[Text] Moscow, 4 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and M. Nurbakhsh, Iranian minister of economic affairs and finance, favor

resolving the question of interaction between the Caspian Sea region states, including elaboration of an appropriate multisided interstate agreement. During a conversation held in the Kremlin today, developing Russian-Iranian cooperation was discussed. The sides agreed that it is necessary to speed up work on finalizing texts of agreements and a treaty between Russia and Iran, reflecting in them the full relations between the two states.

### Country Cannot Meet Ukraine's Gas Shortfall

*LD0603222692 Moscow Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] A news conference was held today in Moscow by Anisimov, Russian Federation minister of trade and material resources. He said that Russia does not have such a great abundance of gas that it can compensate Ukraine for the supplies from Turkmenistan, which have been cut off. The minister did add, however, that Russia is continuing to comply strictly with its own obligations to supply gas to Ukraine.

## Federation Affairs

### Decree on Vice President's Duties Released

*PM0603131992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Mar 92 First Edition p 2*

[Decree No. 193 of the Russian Federation President "On the Duties and Powers of the Russian Federation Vice President," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated Moscow, The Kremlin, 26 February 1992]

[Text] In accordance with Article 121 (7) of the Russian Federation Constitution and the RSFSR Law "On the RSFSR President," I resolve:

1. To instruct the vice president to coordinate work in the following areas:

a) the implementation of decisions by organs of state power of the Russian Federation and the Russian Federation president on the implementation of land reform and the development of new forms of economic management in the countryside;

b) the elaboration and implementation of programs for:
gasification, chemization of agriculture, and the development of the construction industry for rural areas,
the conversion of the military-industrial complex for the production of mechanization means for agriculture and of small and medium capacities for the processing of agricultural produce,
the promotion of enterprise in the production of goods and food products and in trade in rural areas,
the promotion of shaping market structures in the agro-industrial sphere;

c) the attraction of foreign investments and credits for the implementation of reform in the agro-industrial complex;

d) the implementation of foreign economic activity measures aimed at exporting military equipment and weapons and selling personal property and real estate, including military property, on behalf of some of the troops being withdrawn from the territories of other states in line with armed forces and arms reductions; the encouragement of former servicemen to go directly into agriculture.

In order to perform these duties, the Russian Federation vice president is authorized to promulgate the relevant ordinances for mandatory execution by ministries, departments, and organs of executive power in the Russian Federation.

2. The Russian Federation vice president is empowered to submit proposals to the president on suspending the operation of enactments by heads of executive power on the territory of the Russian Federation if they contravene Russian Federation laws, decrees of the Russian Federation president, or resolutions of the Russian Federation Government on matters listed in this decree.

3. To grant the Russian Federation vice president the right to form, according to established procedures, a land reform center and fund, and to create working groups for the elaboration of the aforementioned programs with the participation of representatives of ministries, departments, scientific research organizations, and industrial and agricultural enterprises.

4. The Russian Federation vice president will be held personally responsibility for the prtformance of the duties set by the Russian Federation president.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Dated] Moscow, The Kremlin, 26 February 1992

### Yeltsin Decree Forms Moscow Food Reserves

*LD0903105892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Text] Food reserves are being formed in the Moscow region in accordance with a decree issued by Boris Yeltsin. Private smallholdings are singled out for special attention. Their deliveries must not exceed 25 percent of harvested produce. To ensure that nobody suffers losses as a result of complying with this decision, everything bought from growers will be paid for at free market prices. Other ways of completing food reserves also are envisaged. Additional purchases will be made at fairs and exchanges.

## CPSU Health Care Control Transferred

*LD0803204892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Text] By decree of Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, health establishments previously belonging to the directorate for the affairs of the CPSU Central Committee have been handed over to Moscow oulast. The matter concerns the Pushkino sanatorium with its estate of summer cottages and children's health camp and [word indistinct] the Klyazma boarding house. As stated in the decree, this has been done to organize rest and health care for the working people of Moscow oblast.

By a ruling made by Anatoliy Tyazhlov, chief of the oblast administration, 154 Zaporozhets cars will be received free of charge in 1992 by Patriotic War veterans, first and second group invalids who were servicemen. All these people have a medical declaration authorizing them to receive a Zaporozhets car. Our congratulations.

## Restrictions on Special Accounts Lifted

*PM0603135592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Mar 92 First Edition p 2*

["Decree of the Russian Federation President On the Removal of Restrictions on the Use by the Population of Funds in Special Accounts in the Russian Federation Savings Bank," dated Moscow Kremlin, 27 February 1992, No. 196, and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] With the aim of increasing the purchasing power of the population in the conditions of the liberation of prices I resolve:

1. To adopt the proposal of the Russian Federation Savings Bank on the removal, before the expiry of the three-year time limit, of restrictions on the use by depositors of funds entered into special accounts in line with the decree of the USSR president of 22 March 1991 "On Compensating the Population for Losses Sustained Through the Devaluation of Savings in Connection With the Simultaneous Increase in Retail Prices."

2. To repeal from 30 March 1992 all restrictions on the use by investors of funds entered into these accounts.

3. The Russian Federation Savings Bank is to determine the amount of interest to be paid on deposits kept in special accounts, and the procedure for this payment.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
Moscow, Kremlin
27 February 1992
No. 196

## Cabinet Discusses Draft Budget for 1992

*LD0603214392 Moscow TASS in English 2113 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow March 6 TASS—A total spending of the 1992 Russian budget will amount to 2,104 billion roubles under the draft budget submitted to the Russian cabinet's meeting here today.

The budget deficit will be almost 242 billion roubles, or 3.6 per cent of the gross national product. The GNP may run into 6,365 billion roubles in 1992.

First Deputy Financial Minister Vasiliy Barchuk said "Fulfilment of reforms against the background of this deficit will tell on their efficiency as regards the stabilization of credit-monetary situation in the republic."

He said "A number of measures to reduce the budget deficit are now being elaborated", including the replacement of the current system of obligatory sales of enterprises' hard currency proceeds by a single system of taxation of energy carriers' and raw materials' exports and the introduction of the single customs tariff.

Thanks to these measures, the 1992 budget deficit may be reduced to 1.5 per cent of the gross national product, said Barchuk.

The draft budget provides for a considerable reduction in 1992 of military spending, primarily, at the expense of a decrease of arms and materiel delivery by 3.5 times in comparable prices as against 1991 (it used to be 39.65 billion roubles in 1991, and it will be 11.2 billion in 1992).

On the whole, military spending will amount to 384 billion roubles in 1992.

Speaking of the budget fulfilment in the first quarter of 1992, Barchuk voiced an opinion "It has practically been without deficit over the first two months of the year". Nevertheless, he said "There have been practically no revenues from foreign economic activities" and rates of proceeds from the tax on added value are low.

Barchuk also said actual rates of industrial production's recession are exceeding the estimated 10 per cent—in January the recession amounted to 15 per cent.

Russian Economic Minister Andrey Nechayev stressed "The average production recession may amount to 15 per cent in 1992".

However, one should also take into account the effect of the planned "liberalisation" of prices on energy carriers that may introduce corrections in today's forecasts. The minister voiced an opinion that the "peak" of production recession will be reached in mid-summer and "from the third quarter one should await its stabilization".

The government members on the whole supported the draft Russian budget for 1992. It was decided to improve specific draft provisions within the next two or three days, after which the draft will be submitted to the parliament.

### Gaydar Justifies Public Spending Cuts

*LD0703024992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Today the Russian Government discussed the budget for the second quarter and the whole of 1992. It has had to acknowledge that the implementation of the new taxation policy has not gone smoothly. At the moment we are unable to collect taxes in sufficient quantities. The budget policy will continue to be based on austerity.

Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar believes that if we are to survive, the republican budget will have to see as many spending reductions as possible. The territorial entities making up the Russian Federation and the various sectors will have to assume responsibility for the greater part of this expenditure. These sectors include health and science, which used to rely solely on the budget.

[Begin recording] [Reporter T. Khudobina] On the whole we have survived the harsh budget policy that has been followed over the last six weeks, although it has been difficult. Revenue was late arriving in January as a result of the introduction of the new taxation system. Expenditure had to be held sharply in check. However, Yegor Gaydar is optimistic that we will be able to make some compensation for the reduction in budget allocations at the beginning of March.

The main achievement has been the elimination of excess cash in circulation without triggering off hyperinflation, even though many specialists here and in the West believed that this was impossible without a confiscatory monetary reform. [video shows First Deputy Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis chairing a meeting, Gaydar seated to his right, unidentified man addressing those present; interview with Gaydar; Shumeyko also seen]

[Gaydar] We must now move on to the implementation of a consistent program of destatification in the economy. We must make a conscious decision to abandon burdens that the state cannot bear and only retain those it can and should bear.

[Khudobina] Do science and health have such reserves at their disposal? After all, they have always relied mainly on the budget.

[Gaydar] I am absolutely convinced that science and health do have such reserves. We have fine scientific potential. We also have huge scientific ballast. There is absolutely no reason in principle why this should be funded from taxes. Nothing is free. Free things have to be paid for by everybody. [end recording]

### 'Sharp' Cuts in Military Proposed

*LD0703100192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] The Russian leadership intends to make a fivefold reduction in the budget deficit this year. This was stated in the Japanese newspaper ASAHI by Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar. One way to attain this goal is a sharp cut in defense allocations to 4.5 percent of GNP. Bearing inflation and other factors in mind, Gaydar said, expenditures on arms purchases this year will amount to only 13 percent of last year's level. Gaydar also expressed the opinion that the future dollar rate would fall to 30-40 rubles [per dollar].

### Anisimov Reports on Recovery of Economic Ties

*OW0603165192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Trade and Material Resources Minister Stanislav Anisimov has said that about 70 percent of economic ties destroyed by the Soviet Union's collapse have been restored. Speaking at a news conference on Friday [6 March] he said that most companies preferred to barter because of permanent price rises and the instability of the rouble.

Processing industries, especially steel mills are suffering from disrupted supplies.

Stanislav Anisimov ruled out world prices in the trade between the CIS member states in the near future. However, world ratios are being introduced in trade with the Baltic states. He was quoted as saying :"It will allow us to avoid a situation in which a ton [as received] of oil is sold for 350 rubles, an equivalent of three kilos of meat."

### Production 'Slump' Explained

*LD0803102892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] Stanislav Anisimov, the minister of trade and material resorces of the Russian Federation, held a news conference today. He stated that the start of this year is characterized by a slump in the volume of production.

The minister named the main reasons leading to this state of affairs: the display of monopolism on the part of a considerable number of enterprises; the presence of structural disproportions in the economy; and the lack of reliable means of payment.

According to Anisimov, the question of the need to set up a market in means of production is of urgent concern today. The long-term future belongs to horizontal ties between enterprises and wholesale trade, he stressed.

The chief aim, in his view, is to achieve the restoration of ties between industry base sector enterprises. The second task is to bring pressure to bear on those enterprises which go in for monopolist increases of prices. Third, to assist the development of economic ties with enterprises of the states of the Commmonwealth and the Baltic republics.

## Supreme Soviet

### Constitutional Committee Plenary Session Opens

*LD0703135892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, highly assesses the draft of the new Russian constitution to which the final touches are now being put and, as expected, will be submitted for discussion at the sixth Congress of People's Deputies in April of this year.

Opening the latest plenary sitting of the Constitutional Commission today, he stressed that all proposals, including those from the regions, need to be taken into account and an agreement reached on all key issues.

At the same time the deputy chairman of the Constitutional Commission warned against attempts in the current stage to draw up any alternative versions. In Khasbulatov's view this would mean nothing more than striving to introduce division in society which is already split.

Having characterized the new wording of the draft as a document which can serve as the basis for bringing all positions closer together, the chairman of the parliament called on the deputies to engage in joint, constructive work with a view to giving the state and people a new constitution at the forthcoming Congress of People's Deputies. Our main task, Ruslan Khasbulatov stated, is to find formulas to unite the Federation.

### 'Compromise Version' Considered

*LD0803035792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Report by A. Pishchayev from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Commissions in the Russian parliament continue their work. The last Congress of People's Deputies made a decision to finalize the draft of the new constitution. The appearance of alternative versions is an attempt to delay the approval of the document and to break up society, stated Ruslan Khasbulatov at the opening of a working meeting of the Constitutional Commission of the Russian Supreme Soviet. It is obvious that the speaker of parliament had reasons for this statement. He appealed to deputies with a request to try to reach a compromise.

To all appearances, this has been achieved. Additions and amendments to the draft constitution were introduced, taking into consideration three main remarks, noted commission chairman Kudryavtsev. Reproaches that the draft is removed from the existing legislation were taken into account. Now 15 laws and four legal acts passed by the Supreme Soviet recently have been introduced. In reply to a remark that the draft radically breaks all power institutions in the state, the continuity of the old constitution is now strictly taken into consideration.

The constitution has been reduced in volume by 20 percent. The main point is in the section on federal structure. The finalized draft fully demarcates the authorities of republics, krays, and oblasts in the federation. Moreover, their status remains the same. This can be changed only by the will of a majority of voters and not by 25 percent as was done in Tatarstan.

Many republics in Russia do not agree with this version of the constitution. According to Deputy Lysenko, it is necessary for the Constitutional Commission and the republics to prepare a compromise version that will satisfy the Russian Federation as a whole and each separate republic.

### Khasbulatov on Government Criticism, Mistakes

*LD0803000292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, by correspondent Sergey Pustovoyt; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Pustovoyt] Ruslan Ivanovich, what sort of relations exist today between the Supreme Soviet and Russia's Government, whose work you have recently subjected to repeated and very strong criticism?

[Khasbulatov] Well, you see, the fact is that I did recently criticize it very strongly, as you rightly say, but at that time criticism was something we were not yet used to. For our government it is something new, but I still criticize the government no less strongly today. Also taking into account our critical comments—and frankly, the latest government decisions and presidential decrees do to a considerable extent take parliamentary criticism into account—in the particular sphere of economic policy, of government policy, in the sphere of the freeing of prices policy, in the sphere of implementation of privatization processes, tax activity, and expenditure.

There's been an attempt to cut budget expenditure drastically at the expense of the interests of the people. Of course you cannot say that from our point of view, from the point of view of the parliament, the government is doing everything here. But all the same, a substantial revision of what was a rather conservative position has been carried out by the government.

[Pustovoyt] Do you think life in Russia will improve appreciably before the end of this year?

[Khasbulatov] No, it does not look as if it will get on top of things before the end of the year. I also thought that by the end of the year we might get some relief, but unfortunately from the very beginning the government has made too many mistakes—because of its ignorance of the country and of the economy—and so it has even made our problems somewhat worse. So it is unlikely that we will really be able to improve people's (?situation) substantially by the end of the year.

But I do think we shall create foundations for stabilization, because if, in the first phase the parliament expected that the government would somehow, that we would merely be helping the government legislatively, we now feel in general that we need to influence government policy more actively and vigorously. We will try to ensure that it does not commit any more of these serious omissions.

[Pustovoyt] How would you describe the present situation, especially since your last tours of Russia?

[Khasbulatov] The first thing is the very great support of our reforms, both of the president and of the parliament leadership. People have a very friendly attitude, but they ask us to be more energetic. That's one thing. Second, of course people are worried about the worsening of the situation. The managers, the economic managers, of the enterprises, factories, agricultural enterprises are also worried both by rising prices and the shortage of various types of raw material, components, machines, and so on.

In other words these real problems exist—I have seen them—but the main thing is that we have managed nonetheless even at this very difficult time, of difficult conditions, to preserve...somehow people still continue to have faith and support our work. Clearly there is a certain section of reactionaries who do not want change, who yearn for some return to the old order, but they are a negligible part. Their ideologists form rather strident groups, but they do not really reflect the views of the people, of the majority of the people in any case.

[Pustovoyt] The media has been making much recently of the theme of people of Chechen nationality in the Moscow hotels, and there are a great many rumors, including some linked with your name. Could you explain?

[Khasbulatov] I am so fed up with those various rumors. What is the real situation? Let's begin with the fact that in the papers there was frequent harping on another topic—about the Chechen mafia, with hints that they were here in the Russian parliament. Unfortunately, we have some shifty people working in the hotels—not only in the hotels but in the militia as well. It reached a point where many hotels were taking in completely dubious persons, hooligans, and then there were claims that they were being protected there, in the Supreme Soviet. So to put an end to those insinuations I was forced to say, quite firmly, stop making these references to me, I do not want to hear any more of these matters. If there are dubious people, if there are any people of this sort, associated with the commission of crimes, in that area, then please sort the matter out. I do not want to hear another reference to this allegation that here, in our supreme Russian parliament there are people who have something to do with what's going on in our Moscow hotels. That's all there is to it.

I think we thereby made it very clearly understood that there was no justification for dragging the honor and dignity of the parliamentarians—I say nothing of the leader of the parliament—into this. Well, many people are not pleased about this, that they have been abruptly deprived of the possibility of somehow linking us with these rather sleazy affairs that some people, including no doubt the managers of some hotels, are engaging in.

[Pustovoyt] I hope your explanation will at last put this affair to rest.

[Khasbulatov] Well, let's hope so. But I very often find that the most objective and logical explanations get interpreted differently. But that's how it was. [passage omitted]

### Rutskoy on Agrarian Policy, Land Reform

*LD0703232492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2054 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Address by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy at the Russian Supreme Soviet in Moscow on 6 March; from the "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet" program—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed people's deputies: We met people's deputies yesterday who have a special interest in agrarian affairs. Around 80-100 people attended. I described the prospects for agroindustrial and land reform. I put forward concrete proposals for us to discuss to get agroindustrial and land reform to pursue a new direction and a specific route. Everyone knows that when things happen it is traditional for people to ask why they have happened. If we were to ask why this happened, why we have the situation we do today, the reply is simple: The reason is that during 1991 and the portion of 1992 that has already elapsed, there has been a complete lack of responsibility and of implementation of decisions. This is something I spoke about on numerous occasions as a people's deputy.

Let us look at the congress of people's deputies documents on these matters. Let us look at Supreme Soviet documents, presidential decrees, and government decisions. I do not want to offend anyone, but for the most part these documents contain best wishes for May Day. That is roughly their content. Not a single document ends with any mention of personal responsibility. Admittedly, point four of the decree on the vice president's powers in these matters says that the vice president is personally responsible. This point—point four of

the presidential decree on the vice president's powers—isn't there accidentally. I ask the Supreme Soviet to recall what I used to say as a people's deputy. I always asked that we finish laws, decisions, and decrees with a point about the personal responsibility of officials for implementing these documents. However, let's have a look now. If we put the bundle of documents down, it will be roughly this high. Let's examine what in these documents has actually been implemented to date. I can tell you authoritatively: nothing, absolutely nothing. Subsequent decrees and government decisions are not being implemented either. There is no mechanism of responsibility and accountability of officials. As long as ministers and various other officials come to this rostrum and discuss nothing, criticize things, or make comparisions, we won't get anywhere, I'm sorry to say.

What is the answer to the question why? A beautifully produced document has been handed to you. It is signed by Radugin, honoured agricultural worker of the Russian Federation and chief expert of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's agrarian committee. Read the figures carefully; now, divide them by ten. You will get a realistic idea of what agriculture has received in budget financing for 1992.

Will political, social, and industrial reforms make headway if agrarian reform stands marking time and not getting anywhere? Of course not. Until there are sufficient quantities of foodstuffs and sensible prices in the shops, the politicization of society will continue. Government members are here; the agriculture minister is here; people's deputies are here. Russian Federation deputies have come from the regions. Let us finally face up to the agrarian problem and see what should be done today. Let us see whether value-added tax on seed grain purchases is necessary. It probably isn't. Let's see whether subsidies are needed in advance of the harvest and whether credits need to be allocated for the sowing to allow the peasants to purchase fuel and other things. Yes, no doubt.

In the whole of the civilized world, the private farmer first obtains finance; the debt is then paid when the goods are delivered. We are today again trying to do it all the wrong way round. It mustn't be done like that. I once referred to an economic state of emergency. When, I don't recall; perhaps I've talked about it frequently. Kravchuk has already thought better of it. What did I have in mind? Or rather, what am I referring to here when I speak of a state of emergency? I'm not speaking of sending out OMON men and increasing the number of squads with truncheons. I'm not speaking of that. I'm saying that we must take stock of the documents that we have adopted. Let us look at the laws, the law on land reform. Can land reform proceed without a reform of the agroindustrial complex? Probably not. Without a reform of the agrarian industry? Probably not. Let's see what's happening with land reform today. There is sabotage locally; I can give you thousands of cases. Let's see what's happening with the agrarian industry. The production slump is getting worse and worse; things are declining. Until we halt the process, there will be no reform. However much we joust over it here, the problem will remain locally. However many times we change the government, the problem will continue to exist at the local level.

Let's look at the 1990 harvest checks, which is from where output's supplies ultimately come. Name the person held accountable for the 1990 checks! You can't. Let's see how much oil, gas, coal, metal, and timber was carried off against the 1990 checks. These are astronomical figures, I can tell you! Astronomical! My experts have calculated how much was removed. Esteemed deputies, I can tell you that this year we wouldn't need to sow or plow at all, and we'd have about as much in our shops as in the food shops of London or Paris. Let's investigate where it went, and let's halt this incomprehensible one-way street. Russia today is like a one-way street. Train loads of oil, diesel fuel, timber, and metal continue to leave. There is a slump in industrial production, and we are all surprised at the reason: There are no raw materials, and there is nothing from which to make things.

I'd like to end this philosophical analysis and tell those who were not present at yesterday's conference how we propose to deal with issues of land reform and agroindustrial reform today. We consulted Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and the government directly. As far as the Supreme Soviet is concerned, I have already said that it is necessary to review the existing body of legislation dealing with these spheres. Legislative initiatives, supplements to the laws, or completely new laws should be considered and adopted. At the same time, we must not neglect the point I referred to earlier, the point about personal responsibility and appropriate accountability for implementation.

I said in one of my articles that if we want civilized reform today—I have in mind privatization, land reform, and all the other spheres—it is high time and the experience already exists...[changes thought] I must say that some economists refer to them as Rutskoy's exotic reforms. They are not exotic. Recall Washington, the first U.S. President, and how he made the dollar the dollar. Let's see how the land ought to be privatized. It is probably time to issue state shares so that the process can be controlled. In turn, there will be movement to stabilize the ruble. The land reform will eventually be put right. The same applies to the privatization of enterprises. As far as land reform is concerned, there is piracy today. As for privatizing enterprises in the agrarian sector, there is also piracy. I could also cite a large number of facts about this because I get complaints every day.

Let's examine things further: How will things proceed on the burning issue everyone is talking about, namely the source of financing? The trouble is that the budget contains practically nothing, and you will know what has been allocated from the budget for this year. I can propose the following option, which we discussed with

Boris Nikolayevich and which he agreed to: A financial fund for land reform and agroindustrial reform needs to be set up today. Where will the financial contributions to the fund come from at the present stage?

First, I think it's high time to sort out the credits granted to Russia. I have information that a German loan was earmarked as follows: 90,000,000 [currency not specified] to purchase street clocks, DM [German marks] 700,000,000 to purchase street cleaning vehicles—as these were regarded as the highest priorities—and so on and so forth. All credits should now be audited to see how they have been allotted and who did the allotting. We must ask: Who spent 90,000,000 [currency not specified] on street clocks?

Next, there is the question of credits and investments for programs pursued jointly with foreign states. As part of my official duties, I frequently get to meet foreign statesmen at different levels. They all say clearly: Give us specific programs.

Next, there are active contributions from commercial structures. Today, you could give me perhaps five, 10, or 15 cases where commercial structures—exchanges, commercial banks, companies, and corporations—have invested in industry. This is exceptional and occurs very rarely. This is a number one priority area in this country. There are willing applicants. I'll tell you about the conditions later.

Next, there are active contributions from foreign commercial structures. There are also willing applicants, but they want us to propose concrete programs and specific corporations which produce specific equipment, from which we'd be getting a joint profit.

Next, the question arises of marketing military hardware and armaments. Let's see how things stand in this sphere. Why should we cede the market to other states when this is both a political and commercial issue? Let's examine what the country is, what its policies are, and whether we should sell to it. However, we must market these goods, and colossal amounts of money can be obtained from this, money which can be invested or provided in the form of credits in the agroindustrial sector.

Next, there is the question of utilizing armaments which have been subject to cuts and old hardware taken out of use and the marketing of recycled materials. I can say that enough people are already rich from this. This must now be channelled in this direction. We must sell off the movable and immovable property, including military property, on the territory of states from which troops are being withdrawn. It is necessary to send a team of investigators there to examine the situation now. I can tell you that colossal financial contributions to this financial fund could be obtained in this way.

Where do I think the money from this financial fund should primarily be channelled? Into converting the military-industrial complex so it can produce agricultural equipment; developing technologies for processing agricultural produce; modernizing the agrarian industry, for the equipment made by certain enterprises today does not meet current requirements; developing the construction industry in favor of agriculture—we all merely talk about the construction industry, but nothing is moving; providing gas supplies to rural areas throughout Russia—you can have a pipeline so wide you can drive a car down it, but alongside it not a single rayon or oblast will have gas supplies; and constructing private farms and cooperative centers for processing agricultural produce. Those are the main areas where credits and relevant investments for developing these industries from the financial fund should be channelled. I stress that it would be a fund standing outside the budget.

How should things be implemented in this context? We set up a corporation for producing agroprocessing equipment six months ago. Agreements were sent out, and the company has already been registered. It involves 96 enterprises in the military-industrial complex. They produce small and medium-sized capacity processing complexes for milk, meat, vegetables, and fruit. The corporation is ready for large-scale production. I was telling Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov about the problem yesterday. To begin large-scale production now, we need soomething like 2.5-3 billion rubles. The question of credits for the corporation will now be examined. In fact, the initial steps for this corporation have already been made. A program for producing this equipment has already been drafted; the enterprises have been determined, and the management set up; prototype models have been made, and many of these are already being sold through the trading network. However, we want this corporation to supply all this equipment on lease, where appropriate. This experience, this small experience, shows it to be advantageous and purposeful. The question of privatizing these enterprises can be raised here later, within this actual corporation, this joint-stock company. Further more, there is the prospect of creating the following corporations, namely a land tenure corporation [korporatsiya po zemleustroystvu], an agricultural equipment manufacturing corporation, a building industry corporation, a road building corporation, an agricultural power engineering corporation, a special assembly construction corporation, a corporation for laying on gas to rural locations, and an agricultural chemistry corporation. I will hold an expanded conference tomorrow. Economists, government representatives, representatives of people's deputies, the Supreme Soviet committee, and the appropriate public bodies dealing with these issues have been invited directly. I think we must manage human resources carefully. Work on this is already under way among servicemen who are due to be cut. We made a special film on how the land and agroindustrial reforms will proceed and on what we understand by private farming and reprocessing centers. When we reveal the scheme, then the majority of servicemen, almost to a man, can raise their hands and

agree to participate in this enterprise. If we can attract even 50 percent of the 700,000 servicemen who are liable to be cut, then I can tell you that means a pretty powerful human resource which is capable of solving this problem, if only to a level of 20-30 percent, as early as next year.

Therefore, people's deputies, in view of the restricted time available, I ask you...[changes thought] Within literally two or three weeks, we will submit to you a package of documents on the policy I have been describing so that you can ratify the center for land and agroindustrial reform, the financial fund, and the Russian corporations right here in the Supreme Soviet. Why? In order, in fact, to ask questions and in order in some way to monitor this situation in respect of the land and agroindustrial reform. You will also hear a proposal that these bodies, which will be engaged in reform, be exempt from taxation since economists have calculated that two years will be needed to build the starting capital and then get moving without any hitches. In essence, a package of documents will be submitted to you which we will discuss in more detail. We will introduce and adopt amendments and addenda to these documents. I think that, in this situation, given that I have been tasked with this, I guarantee to you that these documents will be carefully supervised and will be implemented. Just three days ago, the government and I considered this document; Gaydar, Burbulis, and Shokhin considered it. Frankly, we found a common language. The government voiced its full backing for the center for land and agroindustrial reform, and I think there will be some tangible results soon. Thank you for your attention.

## Khlystun Encourages Agroindustrial Financing

*LD0703204792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1815 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Report by Russian Agriculture Minister Viktor Nikolayevich Khlystun at the Russian Supreme Soviet in Moscow on 6 March; from the "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet" program—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed people's deputies: Evidently, there is no need to argue for Russian agrarian reform's relevance. The land reform begun in 1991 has created a basis for changing the whole system of social relations in the agrarian sector of the economy. The main result of the first stage of reform has been the realization of the desire for reform and the emergence of a desire on the part of hundreds of thousands of rural dwellers to achieve rational, effective forms of land management. Russia has seen the arrival and active expansion of the sector of private and associated agricultural commodity producers. More than 15,000,000 families have received plots of land for horticulture and market gardening, and the same number have extended their farmstead holdings.

However, it has become evident during reform's first stage that redistributing land and allocating land to smallholders in itself does not solve the agricultural crisis. Without a transformation of property relations within the agricultural enterprises, without the creation of an economic and technological infrastructure to ensure the functioning of various forms of farming, without state support of the rural commodity producers, the situation in the agrarian sphere not only will not improve but also will become catastrophic, both for the emerging smallholdings and for the various associations and previous forms of economic activity.

Because of this, the president and government adopted in December 1991 and January 1992 a package of documents determining the need for a transition from land reform to broader agrarian reform. Those documents laid down the philosophy, content, and mechanisms for implementing Russian agrarian reforms. The main areas of agrarian reform were identified as: accelerating land reform; reorganizing the structure and management of the agroindustrial complex; altering the system of procuring agricultural produce; converting the collective and state farms into agricultural enterprises, with collective share and joint-stock forms of ownership; privatizing the processing, agroservice, and other enterprises working for agriculture; developing a market economic and technological infrastructure; and creating a system of state support for the rural commodity producers.

A few words on each of these areas: When we speak of accelerating land reform, we speak not of pushing land reform through in a hurry but, above all, of lifting the barriers which exist [word indistinct] the more complicated procedure for settling land questions, which is leading to delays in making these decisions, certain economic circumstances hindering the progress of land reform. [sentence as heard] When we speak of reorganizing the management structure of the agroindustrial complex, what is at issue is not yet another replacement of one set of management structures by others but fundamentally different approaches to the system of management of agriculture, giving up direct diktat in relation to the rural commodity producers, creating a system of economic inventives and economic mechanisms to ensure that the producers work more efficiently.

The greatest criticism of the package of adopted documents—this criticism appears in the media and in many statements—stems from the government decision on reorganizing the collective and state farms, the government being accused of forcible decollectivization and of pressuring the peasants.

However, let's look at the content of these documents and at what is at issue. We received a huge number of questions throughout 1991 asking what a joint-stock company was, what cooperative enterprise with a shared form of ownership was, what an individual farm was and what its status was.

The first issue during the first stage was in three months to brief collectives, people, every rural producer, and every rural owner on their management choices and to

grant the right to adopt decisions to the collective, as a whole, and to everyone, personally. It was hoped that everybody wouldn't simply vote at a meeting but would write the appropriate declaration and choose the form which suits him the best. The question of unprofitable farms is perhaps raised in a tougher way. However, the approach to this also must be very sensible because many agricultural enterprises and collective and state farms last year were unprofitable through no fault of their own but because the state did not settle the difference in compensation for the prices of industrial and agricultural produce, for the expenditure on developing the social sphere of the village, for repaying debts due to natural disasters, and so on. Therefore, at issue is just those economic units which have lost their potential, which cannot make rational use of land or of production resources. Obviously, there is a need for tougher transformations there.

In developing government decisions, the Agriculture Ministry elaborated in January a package of instructional method documents. Regional conferences were held throughout Russian territory with the participation of around 4,000 people. On the basis of these conferences, rayon seminars were held, and the process of carrying out the agricultural reform began, which, in our assessment, at present, in the first two months of reform, is under way rather actively. Here are some results of the analysis which we carried out in 57 territories: Of the 14,500 economic units on this territory, meetings had been held and relevant decisions were adopted in 6,900 of them as of 20 February. Decisions were made to create 607 peasant farm associations; 2,020 collective and state farms have been transformed into joint-stock societies; 11 percent of economic units have adopted the decision to retain the previous form of management of the collective and state farms. Moreover, I should say that the government decision on the course of agrarian reform notes that if the collective of an economic unit chooses to preserve the previous form of management, it is granted that right and reregistered in the previous form.

The number of peasant farms on Russian territory has increased significantly over these two months: A total of 50,000 were created during 1991, and 28,000 peasant farms were created over the two months of this year. The transformation processes are proceeding at various rates. Our estimates show the transformations are proceeding slowly in the Bryansk, Ryzan, Vladimir, Ivanov, and Kostroma oblasts; in Krasnoyarsk kray; and in the majority of Russian Federation republics.

The following figures reflect the decisions adopted on reorganizing economic units and includes a large group of economic units:

—97,000 people work in these economic units;
—out of these 97,000 people, 87.2 percent adopted the decision that they deemed the joint-stock form, or cooperative shared form, of ownership to be the most expedient—an interesting bit of news;
—four percent decided to create an independent peasant farm—they wrote this in their declaration;
—8,500, or 8.8 percent—mainly pensioners and social workers—adopted the decision to sell their land and property share either to farmers or to their former collective farm neighbors.

Unfortunately, there are obvious distortions in the reform process, giving rise to very negative consequences. For instance, one Orenburg oblast economic unit began reorganizing by distributing cattle by household, without sensibly defining the mechanism and the flexible transition to the new form of management. As a result, one-third of the cattle was butchered within a few days. That example served reform's enemies well, those who present it as the most characteristic result of the transformations. Essentially, it is not the reform but, in my view, a most outright perversion of the reform. I even see it as a type of provocation. However, there aren't many examples like these.

However, there are other extremes, where reform amounts to no more than changing the marquee without any deep alteration in property relations. We say: Do not change the marquee; it is your right to leave everything as is, but if it is decided to switch to a different form of economic management then real transformations should be carried out to ensure this switch. Changing the marquee is of no use to anyone.

While opposition to developing the private farmers movement remains, it has declined considerably. Various pretexts are used to delay the examination of land allocation questions. Obstacles are sometimes put in the way or simply nothing is done to provide private farmers with seeds, fuel and lubricants, and fertilizers. The majority of republics, oblasts, and krays are very slow to set up vehicle and machinery hire facilities, and it is extremely difficult to manage without these in the current situation. Some private farmers who feel they are not getting the necessary support give up and relinquish the land they have been allocated.

Here are a few more examples: People in Asinovskiy rayon, Tomsk oblast, are refusing to register farms which have already been transformed. People in Yurgamyshskiy rayon, Kurgan oblast, have virtually ignored reform provisions and have not conveyed the information to rural residents objectively. They have drawn up an overall model charter and recommend it to everyone as a uniform document.

In other cases, in the race to achieve numerical results, they clearly permit formalism. Kurgan oblast's profitable Bayrakskiy state farm was declared absolutely bankrupt without any grounds. Some rayons are artificially reducing the land share size by including on the list of shareholders people working in the rayon directorate of agriculture, the agricultural chemicals and agricultural supplies sectors, and so on, thereby reducing the peasants' proportion of the land share considerably.

Simultaneously with the creation of peasant farms and the transformation of collective and state farms, work has begun everywhere on privatizing agricultural services, agricultural construction and processing enterprises, and other enterprises serving agricultural. Work has begun to transform existing enterprises and to create new ones to serve agriculture on a commercial basis. However, this process clearly is lagging behind demand.

The Ministry considers it absolutely essential to grant rural goods producers priority in acquiring at a nominal price shares in agricultural enterprises which are being privatized. This is the sort of situation which arises: Say there is a dairy works which is today the only enterprise in the rayon. The rural dweller has nowhere else to sell his milk except to that works. If the rural dweller is not a shareholder in this enterprise, the works will become a monopolist in its relations with him, will dictate very high prices, and could raise resale prices yet again.

After the transfer of 25 percent to members of collectives and 15 percent of privileged shares, we consider it absolutely essential that the remaining 60 percent be made availble to rural goods producers. They then have a month, say, to buy these shares, and the remainder can be sent to auction after this. Unfortunately, we have not yet managed to reach agreement on this with the state committee for managing property, but we insist—and we want the Supreme Soviet's support here—on precisely this form of privatization of enterprises serving rural goods producers.

Keep in mind that reforming the agroindustrial complex is a complicated and multifaceted process touching on a broad circle of problems. It would be a great mistake to think that agrarian reform can be carried out in a few months. It is not only changes in property relationships but also structural changes in the system of production, storage, processing, and selling produce; the development of the engineering infrastructure; the renewal of assets; and much more. We feel the minimum time frame for the reform is at least four years. Moreover, it may be defined in three main stages: In the first stage—in 1992-1993—land must be privatized, unprofitable farms liquidated, agricultural enterprises must be transformed into a market structure, and an individual [chastnyy] agrarian sector consisting of medium, small, and large- scale agrarian enterprise must be formed on this basis, and a commerical service system sector must be created. At the second stage, there should be structural changes in the agroindustrial complex; there is very great need for this.

Today, neither the relative areas sown for various crops nor the structure of production, as a whole, are in accord with the demands of society or with the resource potential, and consistent and serious structural alterations must be implemented here.

At the third stage, the mechanism of market relations should be assimilated completely, the influx of investments—both internally and from foreign investors—should be guaranteed, and the volume of the production of agricultural produce should be sharply raised. The Ministry is elaborating now a detailed program for implementing the agrarian reform at the above-mentioned stages, and it may present it for examination by the Supreme Soviet and the government at the end of March.

The agrarian reform's success largely depends on the economic situation pertaining to agriculture. Unfortunately, reform has started as extremely negative trends are developing. A sharp decline in agricultural production figures began in 1990-1991, a reduction in the number of farm animals, a decline in its productivity, destruction of economic links. In 1991 alone, the number of long-horned cattle decreased seven percent—including a decrease of cows by four percent—and the number of pigs declined by 11 percent. These trends accelerated at the start of 1992 because of the severe fodder shortage. The volume of milk production fell by one-quarter in comparison with the previous year, with January and February of that year. The milk yield per cow per day fell by over one litre throughout Russia, on average. Dressed weight of slaughtered cattle is much less, and this is leading to a drop of over 20 percent in meat production. A particularly difficult situation is arising with regard to providing livestock breeding with concentrated food. The underharvesting of 20 million tonnes of cereals and difficulties in importing cereals led to just 3.6 million tonnes of concentrated food being allocated from state resources in the first quarter, while there is a demand for over 6 million tonnes. Poultry farms and pig complexes are in a very difficult situation. Today, there is literally 10-12 days supply of fodder left from the quota of the first quarter. Many complexes are on the verge of liquidation; moreover, the organized slaughter of cattle is not even possible due to the restricted capacity of meat processing concerns. Livestock breeding will be in a catastrophic situation in a few days unless extraordinary measures are taken.

The fact that the state has been unable to pay compensation to rural dwellers for last year for the difference in prices between industrial and agricultural products, for expenditure on engineering and social structures, and for other things has had a negative impact on the overall situation. These debts amount to over 10 billion rubles.

There has been a sharp decrease in deliveries of agricultural equipment and machinery and construction materials. The first stage of liberalization has given rise to a sharp disparity in prices for agricultural and industrial production. While purchase prices for the basic types of agricultural produce have increased five to seven times, prices of industrial goods for rural areas increased 15-25 times, 40-50 times in some areas.

Take the milking installation produced by the Kurgan agricultural machine-building works. Its production costs rose seven times, from 10,000 rubles to 72,000 rubles. The profit on it increased from 200 rubles to 18,000 rubles. The workers' pay rose five or six times. If

one adds to this the value-added tax of 25,000 rubles and the sales markup of 29,000 rubles, then this milking installation costs 144,000 rubles. This is over 10 times more than it cost last year. Unfortunately, no such increase on agricultural produce is taking place.

The cost of one crankshaft increased 70 times on several models of tractors. Calculations show that while the cost of marketed agricultural produce increased over the year by 230-250 billion rubles, prices and additional expenditure on production in January will amount to 520-550 billion rubles. Any goods producer—be it a private farmer or a collective farm—naturally cannot survive under such circumstances.

There has been a fall in consumer demand for produce. The trade network is failing to take up considerable volumes and is not settling accounts with processing workers and producers. This destroys the economies of even strong farms. Decreasing credit volumes, the rather high interest rates, and the reduction in the amount republican and local budgets allocate to developing the production and social spheres have created a very complicated economic situation for rural goods producers today.

There has been a sharp decrease in deliveries of material and technical resources to rural areas. Last year, there was a shortfall in deliveries of 50,000 tractors, 4,000 grain combines, and the list goes on and on. Only eight percent of the norm for rolled metal has been received in the first two months of this year. As of today, we have managed to conclude contracts with supply enterprises for only 35 percent of deliveries of materials and equipment.

At the same time, high prices for agricultural equipment lead to a position in which the agricultural supply organization's depots are crammed with this equipment and the agricultural chemical organization's depots are crammed with fertilizers while rural producers are unable to acquire them today.

The president and the government are adopting a number of measures to alleviate the agricultural and economic situation. In principle, it has been decided—and we want the Supreme Soviet's support here—to increase the volume of agroindustrial complex financing. Originally, the allocation of investment to the tune of just 10 billion rubles was envisaged for the year. Now, an understanding has been reached on increasing it to 20 billion rubles. The president's decree on urgent measures for preparing for the spring sowing and the harvest and the government decision on developing the course of agrarian reform envisage the priority allocation of credit resources—with their being granted on favorable conditions of 8-11 percent—the introduction of a mortgage form [zalogovaya forma] of purchases of agricultural production; the repayment to agricultural producers during the first half of the year the debts owed by the state for 1991; the supply to rural residents before the start of field work of 400,000 tyres, 399,000 tonnes of gasoline, and so on.

It is expected that loans will be granted regardless of the payments on credits granted earlier. Instructions have been given to determine in one month the sources for compensating for all the expenditure incurred by land users for applying lime, phosphorites, and gypsum and for extracting and applying peat. It must be said that this is a very serious problem for the rural areas because there has been a catastrophic fall in the land's fertility in recent years. If it is not halted with the aid of government support, this situation will deteriorate.

Under examination now are a mechanism for reducing the imbalance in prices, forms of state support for developing the animal husbandry sectors, and other measures to support agricultural goods producers. Of course, the above-mentioned measures do not solve all of the countryside's economic problems, but they do alleviate today's strain considerably.

To improve supplies to rural goods producers, the Agriculture Ministry, together with other departments, is working on a program to develop agricultural services and to convert defense enterprises and reorient them to the countryside's needs.

On the whole, specialists figure...[changes thought] A few words about preparations for spring field work. Preliminary data indicates that 92 percent of winter crops are in a good or satisfactory state. Sowing has been carried out over an area which considerably exceeds that of 1991, and 20 percent more of the late fall to winter field has been plowed. The provision of seed for most types of crops is satisfactory. Reseeding is expected on an area of no more than 1.8 million hectares. The presidential decree to which I have referred envisages direct accountability on the part of heads of administration and of agricultural bodies for ensuring that sowing land is used to the full and points out that this should not be reduced on grounds of land reform.

Three points give rise to great concern regarding preparations for sowing: the state of readiness of agricultural equipment, provision with pesticides, and deliveries of fuel and lubricants. There is an acute shortage of spare parts despite the measures taken to increase and restore parts at local agricultural equipment repair factories, which makes it impossible to guarantee that machinery and equipment are fully ready. The situation is most serious as far as the repair of tractors is concerned, with around 200,000 of them unable to take to the fields. That is not much more than last year; nevertheless, that is creating a very alarming situation. The sowing schedules are being delayed, and every day of delay naturally reduces the harvest. Throughout the republic as a whole, agreements for deliveries of just 35 percent of materials and equipment have been concluded.

There is a particular shortfall in repairs of disk and toothed harrows and corn sowing drills, with the standard requirements here being met to the extent of only 56 percent and 83 percent. Factories are working intensively to supply spare parts rather than assembled equipment. The situation at many works now is that a lack of sheet metal means assembled tractors cannot be produced, and large amounts of components are accumulating. There are 19 works where we currently have representatives, and we are trying to dispose of those components as spare parts. However, just what is the situation here? The fact is that factories sell spare parts for considerably more than they do assembled machines. It is actually more profitable for farmers now to dismantle a brand new tractor and use it for spare parts than to buy spare parts directly from the factories. There is clearly something abnormal about such a situation. Laying in fuel and lubricants is proceeding better this year than in previous years, though even so it is clearly inadequate.

Above all, things are very bad regarding supplies of oils and aviation fuel. The situation is getting very grave regarding export [as heard] deliveries of pesticides. No more than 50 percent of the requirement can be met within the credits granted for acquisition of imported materials, and the need arises for additional measures. We hope that examination of the progress of agrarian reform at the Supreme Soviet session will enable this process to be assessed objectively and additional measures to be devised for its further development and for creating normal economic conditions for agricultural production. Thank you.

## Regional Affairs

### Warning Strikes Begin in Kuzbass 6 Mar

*LD0603144592 Moscow TASS in English 1255 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[By ITARTASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo March 6 TASS—Eighty eight enterprises went on strike in the west Siberian coal producing region of Kuzbass on Friday [6 March], chairman of strike coordination council Gennadiy Mikhailets told ITAR-TASS.

According to Mikhailets, telecommunications, transport, municipal service, trade, construction and mining industry workers expressed their dissatisfaction with the refusal of a state commission to arrive here to consider the strikers' demands.

The situation is likely to worsen if the demands of the strikers to increase their wages are not met, Mikhailets predicted.

### Workers Committee Oppose Strikes

*MK0703104592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Mar 92 p 2*

[Report by Tatyana Malkina: "Miners Strike Only About Work, Although Some People, As Predicted, Are Now Trying To Play the Miners' Card"]

[Text] The gloomy RIA report that the Russian Government delegation headed by new Vice Premier Mikhail Poltoranin has not gone to Kemerovo "for unknown reasons" ended with a statement by Kuzbass trade union leader Anatoliy Chekis that "unless a government delegation arrives before 10 March, enterprises in the oblast will begin a Kuzbass-wide unlimited strike."

According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's information, first, the reasons for the delegation's nonarrival are known: Aman Tuleyev, the hospitable chairman of the oblast soviet, "agrees" only to Burbulis and Gaydar going, and certainly not Poltoranin. Second, the information about the future reduction of tools in the Kuzbass is "slightly exaggerated." Although the situation regarding cash and foodstuffs in the oblast remains very grave, the miners are truly confirming the thesis that the working class is the most advanced class. To roll out the red carpet for the Russian leadership, in their opinion, would neither solve the region's problems nor be a "condition" for the continuation of work. For the present the miners intend to wait calmly for the results of the government's special activity to solve the Kuzbass' problems. In the opinion of the oblast workers committees, the attempts to speculate on the miners' movement are inspired by the many former communist functionaries firmly ensconced in the "new" structures set up by Yeltsin's governors and local representatives. The latter (the functionaries) may succeed in rousing Kemerovo railroad workers and store workers to strike, but they will not succeed with the miners. At any rate, the statement by the Kuzbass workers committees cited below is the viewpoint of the proven leaders of the workers movement in the region.

[Statement begins] Regarding the Political Assessment of the Actions of the Kuzbass Federation of Trade Union Organizations:

The Kuzbass Federation of Trade Union Organizations is declaring a strike. One of the reasons for this strike was the threefold increase in wages adopted by the Russian Federation Government under pressure from the coal trade unions, one of which is a member of the FNPR [Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia]. In violation of the agreement between workers committees and the Russian Federation president on increasing the minimum wage to 5,000 [rubles], they are seeking a big increase in wages—a sixfold increase. The official trade unions are the last bastion of reactionary communist forces. While ostensibly fighting for working people's interests, as in 1917, they intend to take advantage of the people's grave situation, which is only natural in a period of reforms. The oblast workers committees assess the

official trade unions' actions as part of a plan by political revanchists to overthrow the government and limit the president's powers at the Congress of Russian People's Deputies. The working people know practically nothing about the populist demands hastily formulated by representatives of the official trade unions. This is a strike by the nomenklatura and the emerging communist strike committees. We call on working people to refrain from striking. Our experience shows that contradictions that arise with this government can be resolved at the negotiating table, without ostentatiously summoning leaders to the oblast. Only one condition is necessary for this—interest in continuing the economic reforms.
6 March 1992

### Oblast Leader Denounces Unions

*LD0903043792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0245 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo, 9 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Head of oblast administration Mikhail Kislyuk appealed on local radio today to the people of the Kuzbass for preservation of the fragile calm and for the prevention of conflict and bloodshed. The reason for his appeal is that the Coordinating Council of Strike Committees, acting under the aegis of the official trade unions, last week announced 10 March as the beginning of an all-Kubass strike.

Mikhail Kislyuk denounced the position of the official trade unions that, during the administration's talks with the government, tried to incite the labor collectives of the Kuzbass to strike. "The Russian Government pays great attention to the region's problems," he said. A decision has been made to allocate 500 million rubles in cash and provide for the delivery of sugar. Two bills by the Russian President have been drafted: on a free Kuzbass economic zone and on foreign currency regulation.

Will the decision of the Coordinating Council of the Strike Committees on holding an all-Kuzbass strike on 10 March remain in force? This will be known today after the session of the Council of the Federation of Trade Union Organizations of the Kuzbass.

### Unions Respond to Kislyuk

*LD0903090692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Text] The Council of the Federation of Kuzbass Trade Union Organizations has decided to begin an indefinite strike throughout the Kuzbass on 11 March. The Council also supported a resolution of no confidence in Mikhail Kislyuk, the head of the oblast administration, as passed by the Coordination Council of Strike Committees. Kislyuk's stance has been the target of severe criticism.

### Delegation Reminded of 'Promise'

*LD0803075892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1939 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kemerovo [dateline as received]—On March 6, the Kemerovo regional administration sent a telegram to Russian Vice Premier Gennadiy Burbulis asking him to come to Kuzbass on March 10.

The telegram says: A pre-strike situation has objectively arisen in the region. One of the main reasons is a misproportion between wages in the coal mining industry and other sectors. To prevent a possible all-Kuzbass strike starting from March 10, we suggest that you live up to your promise to send a plenipotentiary government delegation to Kuzbass.

The telegram was signed by Anatoliy Chekis, chairman of the Kuzbass Trade Union Federation, chairman of the Regional Council Aman Tuleyev, and Dmitriy Volkov, first deputy head of the regional administration. Volkov believes that the issues put forward by the trade unions require a thorough discussion and may not be settled in a few days.

### Wage Discrepancies, Prices Blamed

*PM0903112192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Report by Viktor Kostyukovskiy: "'Official Trade Unions' Incite Miners To Strike Despite Stance of Kuzbass Strike Committees"]

[Text] Kemerovo—The new wave of strikes in the Kuzbass was not initiated by the miners but is closely connected with them and most likely with their wages.

In the opinion of the Federation of Trade Union Organizations of the Kuzbass, the discrepancy in the wages of working people of various sectors has reached an intolerable size and the released prices in the oblast have taken a leap forward in response to the miners' wages, which is putting the workers and employees of other sectors in an unbearable situation.

Generalizing their demands, the Federation has formed a coordinating intersectorial council of strike committees which has entered into talks with the government (in the form of G. Burbulis). According to G. Mikhaylets, the council's chairman, Vice Premier G. Burbulis had personally assured him that a government commission will arrive in the Kuzbass 5 March. But it did not arrive on time. Then the coordinating council together with the chairman of the trade unions oblast committees announced in their address warning strikes from 6 through 9 March and as of 0000 hours on 10 March an all-out Kuzbass strike.

The Kuzbass workers committees council and the miners' independent trade union have an extremely

negative attitude toward the trade unions federation's attempts to organize a strike. The executive organ of the workers committees council admitted in its statement that the pretext for this new wave was the general tariff agreement signed in January by the government with the miners' trade unions in contravention of the accord with the Russian president on raising the miners' minimum wage to 5,000 rubles. They were seeking a sixfold wages increase and achieved a threefold one. The "official trade unions" are described in the statement as "the last bulwark of the reactionary communist forces" and their actions are described as an attempt to sink the reforms with the aid of populist, unfeasible demands and as a component of the political revanchists' plan to overthrow the young vigorous government and to restrict the president's powers at the forthcoming Congress of Russian People's Deputies. The workers committee urged the Kuzbass working people to refrain from strikes and to resolve at the conference table the contradictions which have arisen.

### Kemerovo, Kuzbass Workers Sign Agreement

*LD0703054992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 5 Mar 92*

[Text] An agreement has been signed in Kemerovo between the oblast administration and the Council of Kuzbass Workers' Committees. The document does not say that the administration and workers' committees have now merged. They have, however, become genuine legal partners in the complex period of the transition to a market economy. The workers' committees remain the guarantor that the situation in the oblast will return to normal.

### Dudayev Urges Oil Producers To Oppose Russia

*OW0603154592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chechen leader Dzhakhar Dudayev has called on Azerbaijan, Tatarstan, Bashkortostan and Turkmenistan, the four "major partners in extracting and refining oil", to pool their efforts to oppose "the anti-national policy of the Russian leadership." Reports from Groznyy say he sent appropriate messages to the governments of these republics.

Dudayev suggested that all the technical aspects of the proposed anti-Russia action be coordinated by specialists from the four republics at a personel meeting in the near future.

The Chechen president accused Russia's leaders of "undermining stability in Checheniya by taking advantage of the single ruble space and their own monopolistic right to regulate the printing of money."

Earlier Dudayev threatened to cut short oil supplies from Chechenya to Russia.

### Caucasian Union To Overcome 'Provocation'

*OW0803162592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government of the Chechen Republic proposed that the congress of leaders of Caucasian republics be convened and a Union of Caucasian States be created. The special session of the government chaired by Dzhakhar Dudayev was held the night of March 8 and was devoted to devising measures "to overcome possible provocation by the Russian Government". "Interfax" was told the cause for the session was unconfirmed reports by the media on the impending overthrow of Dudayev.

The Chechen Government appealed to the people of the Caucasus to "unite in the face of foreign threat". The address insists on immediate withdrawal of CIS military forces from the region as well as "all Moscow emissaries".

According to the address by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Chechen Republic, Groznyy proposes that the republic refuse to enter the Commonwealth, and instead create its own Caucasian armed forces and invite UN observers to the region.

The Chechen Government also allocated the neighboring Stavropol region (southern Russia) 5 thousand tons [as received] of oil products for the spring planting. Stavropol has already begun shipments of grain, cooking oil and other products.

An "Interfax" correspondent said that according to unconfirmed reports a meeting of experts from Russia and the Chechen Republic to prepare interparliamentary talks is scheduled for March 12 in Dagomys.

### Nadterechenskiy Situation Deteriorates 'Sharply'

*LD0603165192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] The situation has deteriorated sharply in the Nadterechenskiy Rayon in the former Chechen-Ingushetia, where some of the inhabitants have declared themselves to be opposed to the republic's current authorities. The local paper has published an appeal from the mayor of the rayon to all citizens of the Chechen Republic, calling on them not to recognize Checheniya's president and parliament.

A defense headquarters has been set up in the rayon. Armed men control the entrances and exits of all settlements around the clock.

### Tatar Referendum Not Designed for Secession

*LD0803070192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0540 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[BY ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan, 8 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The Tatarstan parliament's appeal to the people of the republic was read here today. The Supreme Soviet Presidium met for two days before the holiday to debate the Russian parliament's appeal to the people and leadership of Tatarstan. As a result a statement was published stating: "The referendum question does not envisage the Tatarstan Republic leaving or not leaving the composition of Russia or its isolation from Russia."

"Tatarstan remains in the same economic and geopolitical space as the Russian Federation and builds its relations on the basis of equitable treaties and the delegating of a number of powers," the document says.

The final answer will be given by the people in Tatarstan's first national vote on 21 March in which the fate of the multiethnic republic in the center of Russia is being decided.

### 'Sovereignty' Not Split Urged

*OW0803142092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidium of the Tatar parliament passed a resolution Saturday [7 March] which stresses that the question brought up at the referendum does not mention Tatarstan's secession from the Russian Federation or government isolation from Russia. The resolution was passed following an address to the people of Tatarstan from the Russian parliament which stated that the referendum was worded incorrectly. The Russian parliament also accused the organizers of the referendum of "unwarranted hastiness".

According to the resolution by the presidium of the Tatar parliament the impending referendum must determine if bringing the autonomy "to the status of a sovereign state within the economic and geopolitical territory of the Russian Federation is in the interests of the Tatar population". The resolution says that Tatarstan plans to build its relationship with Moscow "on the basis of equal contracts" delegating "a number of powers" to the Russian Federation.

At the same time the presidium of the Tatar parliament said that the referendum's main purpose is, through the direct and free expression of the people, to confirm the declaration passed by the Supreme Soviet on the sovereignty of the Republic of Tatarstan.

### Rally Against Referendum Held

*OW0703185692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A rally under the slogan "Russia will survive without us, but we will not survive without Russia" dedicated to a referendum on Tatarstan's status took place in Kazan Saturday [6 March]. Organized by the movement "Citizens of the Russian Federation". It gathered about 500 people.

Chairman of the movement Aleksandr Salagayev urged the demonstrators to respond negatively to the referendum's question on republic's independence. He also appealed to oppose "the separatist policy pursued by the nationalist movements and the republican leadership".

Participants in the rally adopted a resolution condemning the republican leadership's policy aimed at Tatarstan's secession from the Russian Federation.

### Russia's 'Crude Interference' Dismissed

*OW0603213992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The All-Union Tatar Public Center has dismissed the Russian parliament's message as "crude interference in the internal affairs of the republic and a manifestation of a policy of inciting ethnic discord".

The Supreme Soviet of Russia described as incorrect the question to be answered in Tatarstan's referendum on March 21: "Do you agree that Tatarstan is a sovereign state and a subject of international law, building its relations with the Russian Federation and other states on the basis of equitable treaties?"

Friday's [6 March] statement by the All-Union Tatar Public Center in Kazan says that the Russian parliament's appeal is evidence of the "inability to reform the ethnic-territorial structure of the Russian Federation on democratic principles".

The center believes that any pressure on the people of Tatarstan, who have chosen a "constitutional road towards freedom" is impermissible.

In the meantime, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Bashkortostan Murtaza Rakhimov [name as received], told a news conference in Ufa on Friday [6 March] that he supported the idea of a referendum in Tatarstan. Rakhimov also said that the Russian authorities "intentionally seek to make this action look nationalist at a time when former autonomies, including Tatarstan and Bashkortostan are seeking economic sovereignty in the first place".

IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent reports from Kazan that on March 7 there will be a rally called by the "Citizens of the Russian Federation" movement and the group of members of Kazan's City council "Referendum". The main slogan of the rally will be "Russia Will Do Without Us. We Will Not Do Without Russia".

### Moscow Mayor Bans Manezh Square Meeting

*LD0703070492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 5 Mar 92*

[Text] The Moscow mayor's press service today confirmed the Moscow Government's ban on a meeting on Manezh Square on 17 March. The request to hold a meeting was submitted by those organizations that on 23 February violated the ban imposed by the government of the capital on meetings in the center of the city and provoked clashes with law and order forces. The Moscow Government proceeded from precisely these facts when it rejected the request to organize another meeting on 17 March, explained the mayor's press service.

### Decision Said Not 'Sensible', 'Legal'

*LD0603234792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russia 1800 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Ponomarev, procurator of Moscow, has commented on the decision by the mayor of the capital on mass meetings on 17 March. He said that this decision cannot be called either sensible or legal. Incidentally, so far, the decision has not yet been signed by the mayor of Moscow.

### Demonstrations Held in Gorky Park

*OW0803175592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The demonstration coinciding with International Women's Day at the entrance to Gorky Park Sunday [8 March] attracted several thousand people. The demonstration was organized by "Trudovaya Russia", "Edintsvo" and the Russian Communist Party and sported the slogans "Stop price hikes and unemployment", and "Restore the Soviet Union".

The leader of "Trudovaya Russia" Victor Anpilov said that "March 17, regardless of any decisions by the Moscow authorities, we will hold a national veche (popular assembly)". "We will gather so the Congress of People's Deputies doesn't misfire, so that the Soviet Union is restored", he said.

At the meeting delegates were chosen to the Congress, they are: journalist Nadezhda Garifullina, economist Tatiana Karyagina, and people's deputy Svetlana Goryacheva.

### Energy Shortages Focus of Government Meeting

*MK0703080392 Moscow Teleradioveshchatelnaya Kompaniya Moskva Television in Russian 1545 GMT 3 Mar 92*

[L. Klemm report over video; from the "Moskovskiy Teletayp" newscast]

[Text] A solution to the issues being discussed this time at a meeting of the Moscow Government is important to us all. We all know about the difficulties that have arisen in the supply of power to Moscow and Moscow Oblast. Nobody is about to help us and there is no longer any hope pinned on nuclear power stations. We must think not only about today but about the next century as well. A plan has been drawn up. Strict economy and the introduction of new capacities through the construction of the Severnaya TETs [Heat and Electric Power Station] can solve the problem. [video shows meeting in progress]

The government meeting adopted a program for demonopolizing the Moscow economy. A report on the concept for developing the Western Administrative District in conditions of market relations was also heard. A resolution on organizing trade on Manezh Square was adopted, and state enterprises, cooperatives, and private individuals will be enlisted in this.

## International Affairs

### Kravchuk Receives Turkish Foreign Minister

*LD0603175792 Moscow TASS in English 1353 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Alexey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev March 6 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk today received Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, currently here on an official visit, to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Cetin stressed Ukraine and Turkey are neighbour-countries, and the Black Sea should unite them instead of separating.

He called for cooperation in the assistance to Crimean Tatars, as well as in construction.

### Minister Says Talks 'Productive'

*LD0703043592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1725 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev, 6 Mar (UKRINFORM-TASS)—Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin described his talks in Kiev as productive and fruitful. He was in Kiev on 5 and 6 March on an official visit.

Cetin was received by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. Talks took place with Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Sytnik and Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko. In the course of the meetings, the deepening and broadening of Ukrainian-Turkish ties, cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural spheres, and the quest for the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were discussed.

The delegation headed by the Turkish foreign minister also visited a number of Ukrainian ministries and departments. Anatoliy Zlenko and Hikmet Cetin signed a protocol on consultations between the Ukrainian and Turkish ministries of foreign affairs and held a joint news conference for journalists.

### Communique Issued on Karabakh

*TA0603205492 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has declared that Nagorno-Karabakh is Azerbaijani territory. Kravchuk made this statement during a meeting with the Turkish delegation, which is currently conducting contacts in Kiev.

A joint communique, including the recent developments in Karabakh, was issued following the talks between the Foreign Ministry delegations of the two countries. The communique, which was announced in a joint news conference by Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, stated: The situation in Karabakh is extremely critical and threatens regional stability. Turkey and Ukraine believe that cease-fire talks must begin urgently. Both countries want peace in the region.

Zlenko said that the matter has become an international issue and that the UN Security Council and CSCE should address the subject without further loss of time. Zlenko also called for the immediate withdrawal of CIS troops from the region. In turn, Cetin remarked that Turkey and Ukraine agree on the way to end the confrontation in Karabakh.

The joint communique also stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation in the Black Sea and noted that the two countries will exert increased efforts on the subject. It stated that Kravchuk told the Turkish delegation that the Black Sea must be transformed into a nuclear-free zone.

### Further on Kravchuk Statements

*LD0703171392 Moscow TASS in English 1618 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev March 7 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk urged today to put an end to bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh and start a dialogue. His statement dealing with the developments in Nagorno-Karabakh was circulated here. Kravchuk supported the recommendations of the committee of senior executives from the CSCE member states on the settlement of the conflict. Azerbaijan's and Armenia's membership in the United Nations and the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) gives them an opportunity and obliges them to use to the full the mechanisms of those international forums for attaining a peaceful settlement of the problem.

The statement urges all the parties concerned to take action for the purpose of achieving a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The summit conference of the CIS member states, due to be held in Kiev on March 20, may become an important stage in attaining the settlement, on condition that the sides display goodwill. In order to restore peace in Nagorno-Karabakh, it is necessary to stop combat operations immediately, ensure the observance of a ceasefire agreement by all parties concerned, withdraw all the armed units from the region, including CIS troops, and create democratic institutions of lawful power.

### Kravchuk Warns Russia on Coordinating Actions

*OW0603194992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk has met with the Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin in Kiev on Friday [6 March]. He said that at a time when "certain CIS member-states stop gas supplies and raise prices without a warning, it is very difficult to establish friendly ties".

He believes that if "Russia fails to change its attitude towards other independent member-states of the Commonwealth or coordinate its political and economic actions, this will have a negative effect on the future of the CIS."

President Kravchuk confirmed Ukraine's commitment to its intention to go nuclear-free.

About the future of the Ukrainian Army the president said that the Republic's maritime borders would be defended by a Ukrainian fleet, which it would build on the basis of the Black Sea fleet.

The Ukrainian President said that the meeting of the leaders of CIS member-states in Kiev on March 20, convened by Ukraine, would discuss a draft resolution on the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh.

## Prime Minister Talks With Tyumen Oil Producers

### Fokin on Energy Program

*LD0903045292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1948 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev, 7 Mar (UKRINFORM-TASS)—The Ukrainian energy program is to be completely orientated toward Tyumen Oblast and Western Siberia as a whole, with whom firm economic ties have been established. This was stated in a conversation between a UKRINFORM correspondent and Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin, who recently visited several towns in Tyumen Oblast. He held talks there with oil producers on the supply of liquified gas and oil.

It is expected that in March contracts on mutual deliveries of production and raw materials will be concluded at the level of associations and enterprises. These contracts will ensure a sufficient volume and range to fully provide for the fuel requirements of the republic.

Vitold Fokin noted that last year 52 million tonnes was delivered to Ukraine, but this year only approximately 40 million is expected. In this connection spring field work has been threatened. Now, in line with the accords reached, the Tyumen side has undertaken to deliver 3.9 tonnes of oil each month, which should fully meet Ukraine's requirements.

The prime minister stated that Ukraine has undertaken to deliver flour, sugar, butter, and consumer goods to Tyumen Oblast on barter terms.

### Cited on Iran 'Project'

*LD0903093192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Text] Tyumen will save Ukraine from a fuel and energy famine. This was the theme of an interview with Prime Minister Vitold Fokin on Ukrainian radio this morning in which he announced that his trip to Tyumen was successful. During his meetings with heads of oil associations, he managed to secure an agreement on the regular supply of 4 million tonnes of oil every month, which will cover the Republic's requirements.

Asked about the Iran-Ukraine oil project, Vitold Fokin noted that this is still only a plan at the moment. Even if things go as well as possible, Ukraine will receive only 4 million tonnes of Iranian oil per year, whereas the Noyabrsk oil and gas association in Tyumen Oblast by itself is already prepared at this time to supply an additional 2 million tonnes of oil.

### Agreement Signed on Pipe Delivery

*LD0803005192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] Ukraine and Tyumen Oblast have concluded an agreement according to which 110 tonnes of pipes will immediately be sent to Tyumen. Without the pipes oil derricks in Siberia are idle. Ukraine will supply 6.5 million tonnes of sugar and other foodstuffs in March. For its part, oilfields of Tyumen Oblast will send almost 6 million tonnes of oil to Ukraine in March and April. Oil deliveries will go up in the future. As you can see, both interstate relations and relations between states and oblasts are starting to develop.

### Worker Protection Accord Signed

*LD0803123192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] Ukraine and Russia have agreed on protection of the rights of Ukrainians living in Siberia. A decision on measures for the social and legal protection of Ukrainians living and working in Tyumen Oblast has been signed by Vitold Fokin, prime minister of the Ukrainian Government. Now everyone who goes from Ukraine to Siberia on a labor contract will have lifelong protection.

## Turkmenistan Ready To Compromise on Fuel

*LD0803164892 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in English 2200 GMT 5 Mar 92*

[Text] A tense situation is being currently observed in the energy complex of Ukraine. The reason is actions undertaken by Turkmenistan, which refused to supply natural gas to Ukraine. It is not ruled out that such embargo on the part of Turkmenistan will continue until 16 April.

The matter is, pointed out the Ukraine's minister of industry, Viktor Hladush, that by the middle of next

month Russia plans to liberalize prices of fuel. Turkmenistan is also getting ready for this, intending to bring the prices of its raw materials in conformity with them.

As far as Ukraine is concerned, according to Viktor Hladush, it has not and is not going to cut off the gas pipelines which transport gas which pass through its territory to the European countries. For example, on 3 March 200,000 cubic meters of blue fuel have been additionally pumped above the day load along the gas pipeline Turkey-Bulgaria.

The latest news on the subject: Turkmenistan is ready for compromise in relation to the shipment of gas to Ukraine. This was announced by the deputy prime minister, Nazar Suyonov. He spoke by telephone with the leadership of Ukraine, who in their turn expressed agreement to hold talks.

Suyonov confirmed that Turkmenistan cannot adopt the present conditions of Ukraine. The proposed price for the gas doesn't cover the expenditures on extraction and transportation. In this connection, Suyonov pointed out that Turkmenistan has already received proposals on gas deliveries from other countries in line with world prices; among them is neighboring Iran.

### Agrees To Hold Talks

*LD0803033892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] An agreement on holding talks between the Ukrainian and Turkmen Governments regarding the supply of gas from Turkmenistan to Ukraine has been reached. This was stated by Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Gasprom concern, to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. The agreement between Ukraine and Turkmenistan was reached through his mediation.

## Cooperation Agreement Signed With Belarus

*LD0803064192 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] An agreement on cooperation between the ministries of internal affairs of Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus was signed in Chernigov yesterday. It was signed by Ukrainian internal service Colonel General Andriy Vasylyshyn and Belarussian internal service Lieutenant General Vladimir Yegorov. A protocol on results of the talks was also signed. These documents determine the main tasks and legal framework for coordination of the contiguous states' militia.

Vasylyshyn said at a news conference held upon the completion of the signing ceremony that this is the third agreement of this type for Ukraine. The first two were concluded with Hungary and the Russian Federation. Negotiations with Poland, Romania, and Czechoslovakia are next.

Yegorov said that the CIS ministers of internal affairs will gather in Minsk in mid-March to discuss multilateral cooperation in fighting crime.

## National Affairs

### Kravchuk Issues State Institute Decree, Others

*LD0703064292 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] Ukrainian President Kravchuk has issued a decree on setting up the Institute of State Administration and Self-Government on the basis of the republic's Institute of Manager Training under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, which is to be liquidated.

### On Religious Property

*LD0803021192 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] Taking into account numerous requests by religious organizations on returning to them religious buildings and other religious property illegally withdrawn from religious use, Ukrainian President Kravchuk has adopted a decree on measures regarding the return of religious property to religious organizations. In 1992 to 1993 religious buildings not used for religious purposes will be transferred to the possession of religious organizations or given over to their use free of charge.

### On Improving Mining Situation

*LD0903052492 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] We have received a decree from President Kravchuk on measures to improve the economic situation of mining enterprises. The document states that as of 1 February this year enterprises conducting underground extraction of iron and manganese ore and constructing mines are relieved from making contributions to the fund for implementing measures to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe and for the social protection of the population.

## Law Adopted on Privatization, Securities

*LD0903054692 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Report by Lyudmyla Samayeva on the 6 March session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet]

[Excerpts] The Supreme Soviet's work was marked by the adoption of two important laws: on privatization of small state enterprises and on privatization documents and securities. The laws will be published. I am sure we will study them very carefully because they concern everyone's life. [passage omitted]

The day started with adoption of the resolution regarding a solution of economic and social problems in

the Krivoy Rog basin where a miners' strike is continuing. All hopes are placed on the Supreme Soviet commission. Much attention was drawn to the speech by Vice Prime Minister Slepichev, who informed about the situation regarding payment in coupons and cash [part of the salary is paid in coupons and part in rubles] to the population, on providing a minimum living standard, and on pricing policy. He said:

[Begin Slepichev recording] Two months have passed since the coupons for repeated use were put into circulation. The main result is that thanks to the coupons we have managed to avoid ruble intervention and prevented the complete devastation of shelves regardless of the considerable decrease in the volume of production of consumer and manufactured goods. [passage omitted]

Data from the February sociological research shows that almost 75 percent of those polled connect the introduction of coupons with the policy of building independence and the desire to have our own national currency, while 12 percent are against. This makes it possible for us to count on the support and trust of the people. More data shows that 73 percent of the people more or less support the coupons but 28.6 percent are not satisfied; 50 percent say that they can buy necessary goods following the introduction of the coupons, but 45 percent cannot make the necessary purchases. In February last year 84 percent were unsatisfied.

As far as the pricing policy is concerned, it is known that Ukraine's program for transition to the market economy counts on the liberalization of prices from state control for the overwhelming majority of goods and services. This is the strategic direction for pricing. There can be no normal market relations without this. It would be very difficult to balance the budget and the consumer market without it. At the same time, it is clear to all of us now that the total liberalization of prices creates an extremely dangerous situation in the economic and social plane if there is a shortage of goods and resources, monopolies, and a lack of competition.

Therefore, the government has taken urgent measures to reduce the price pressure on the population. The range of regulated prices for consumer goods has been expanded. The top level of rentability for manufacturers has been fixed. This makes it possible to reduce the rate of price growth to a certain extent. I remind you that this was done in tough conditions of the financial crisis and a shortage of money in the budget. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The Supreme Soviet passed a number of resolutions on 6 March. They decided on the transition to summer time, on changing the boundaries of the town of Gorlovka, on changing the name of the Lenin section of the city of Kiev to Starokyyivskyy, and on changing the boundaries of the town of Shchors in Chernigov Oblast. The resolution on abolishing punishment in the form of exile or banishment was also adopted. The session approved the statement of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine concerning events in the Republic of Moldova. In conclusion, congratulations from the Supreme Soviet to women of Ukraine were announced on the occasion of International Women's Day.

A regular meeting of the Supreme Soviet will take place on Tuesday, 10 March.

## TASS Details Law on Privatization

*LD0803091692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1542 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Litvinov and TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 6 Mar (TASS)—A package of laws directed at developing market economy in the country was passed by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet today. Laws on privatization papers and on privatization of small state enterprises have been added to a document on privatization approved earlier.

Small state enterprises—stores, cafes, laundries, repair shops, and also incomplete building sites—the balance cost of which does not exceed 1.5 million rubles are named objects of small privatization. At the same time before the introduction of national currency buyers can acquire enterprises on clearing. If the cost of an object which is being privatized exceeds the sum amounting to 50 minimum wages, a citizen should present an income declaration. Free transfer of buildings and premises into private ownership is not allowed.

Parliamentaries also listened to information by a deputies' commission of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on the situation in the Krivoy Rog coal field, where miners are on strike. It was decided to allow the miners to sell ore on barter basis.

Deputies passed a statement on the events in Moldova, which confirms Ukraine's readiness to assist in peaceful settlement of confrontaion.

## Crimean Deputies Protest Sevastopol Events

*LD0703050492 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 4 Mar 92*

[Text] A group of people's deputies from the Republic of Crimea—Kondryakov, Spys, Stupnykov, Havrylov, Demydov, and others—has addressed a request to Ukraine's Supreme Soviet. The deputies express their indignation over the arrival in Sevastopol of riflemen from the Ukrainian national self-defense organization headed by Ukrainian People's Deputy Stepan Khmara.

For four hours the riflemen blocked rail traffic in the Sevastopol area, violated public order, and committed excesses. As a result of the action the Ukrainian National Assembly began to collect signatures for a referendum on the independence of Crimea.

The people's deputies call the actions of Stepan Khmara and his accomplices a premeditated provocation aimed at violating the territorial integrity of Ukraine, which, in accordance with existing legislation, is a state crime. The parliamentarians have placed before Ukraine's procuracy the demand that a judicial appraisal be given of the actions of Stepan Khmara and other participants in the excesses.

Stepan Khmara has a completely different view of these events. We can only say that even good intentions should not justify negative results.

### Religious Community Responds

*LD0603194392 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 5 Mar 92*

[Text] A group of MPs [members of parliament] from the Crimea have appealed to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine with a message of indignation with the arrival of the Ukrainian Self Defense Riflemen headed by People's Deputy Stepan Khmara to Sevastopol. It is pointed out that the illegal activity of the emissaries resulted in violations of public law and order. The authors of the appeal qualified such actions of Stepan Khmara's supporters as those aimed at destabilizing the situation, stepping up separatist sentiments in the Crimea. However, the organizers of the trip have a different opinion of the events in Sevastopol. One of these, the Saint Pokrovska, a religious community of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, has sent a letter to Ukrainian Radio, which reads as follows: To date the people of Ukraine know very little about the heroic death of 120 Ukrainian sailors who were murdered by the Commissars only because the sailors hoisted the blue and yellow flags on their ship in 1918. After Ukraine gained its independence, the believers and the clergy of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Church decided to conduct a divine service in memory of the dead on that very spot where the sailors were executed, that is in Sevastopol. During this service, a group of hoodlums from the so-called republican Movement of the Crimea, started to whistle and shout "Ukrainians get out of the Crimea". Stepan Khmara addressed the so- called Russian patriots and asked them to behave properly and observe the laws of Ukraine. However, the hoodlums only continued to shout obscenities.

### Crimea Referendum Campaign Stepped Up

*LD0603193192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 5 Mar 92*

[Text] Of late the campaign on collecting signatures for the referendum on the independence of the Crimea has been stepped up. A group of MPs [members of parliament] from the Crimea believes this is the result of the notorious visit to Sebastopol by members of the Ukrainian National Assembly. The members of parliament from the Crimea qualified this act as the one aimed at violating territorial integrity of Ukraine.

### Republican Party Votes To Withdraw from Rukh

*LD0603192692 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 5 Mar 92*

[Text] The Ukrainian Republican Party has officially determined its attitude towards People's Movement Rukh at the current stage of its existence. A decision was taken at the sitting of the central leadership of the party that the Ukrainian Republican Party should withdraw from Rukh. The Party members believe that Rukh must continue to be a political organization which would unite all democratic forces. However Rukh must never be allowed to turn into a political party. Under such conditions the Republican Party has no intention to support Rukh being its member. At the same time the resolution passed at the sitting of the central leadership indicated that the secession of the Ukrainian Republican Party from Rukh is not conected with ideological differences. The Republican Party will further continue to support Rukh in its efforts aimed at building an independent Ukrainian State.

### Party Appeals for Dismissal of Galician Assembly

*LD0903060392 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] The Ternopol Oblast organization of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP] has given its support to a statement and appeal by the Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast leadership of the URP to all political parties and public organizations to dismiss the Galician Assembly. We Galicians, the statement reads, created the Galician Assembly, which for the period of its existance did not produce and will never produce effective results in improving the economy, culture, or education. Neither did it draw together the western and eastern regions of Ukraine or establish firm economic contacts with the Crimean-Lvov, Donetsk-Ternopol, or Ivano-Frankovsk-Odessa assemblies. Problems concerning the entire Ukrainian people must be solved jointly by all regions, not by individual ones, because this will lead to deepening the division in Ukraine and to grave consequences, it is stressed in the statement.

### Servicemen To Be Recalled From Border Areas

*LD0803081792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2038 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Khabarovsk [dateline as received]—On March 5, a representative of the Ukrainian frontier guarding committee came to Khabarovsk. Military information sources told PF [POSTFACTUM] that an officer from the Ukrainian state frontier guarding committee had come to find out the number of ethnic Ukrainian enlisted men called up from the Ukraine serving in units of the Far Eastern frontier area, to transfer them for further service in the Ukraine.

The command of the Far Eastern frontier area is trying to check the process of transfer of ethnic Ukrainian enlisted men to the Ukraine due to a shortage of enlisted personnel on the Russian-Chinese border.

The representative of the Ukrainian frontier guarding committee declared that enlisted men who will fail to state their willingness to be transferred to the Ukraine prior to May will not be granted a Ukrainian citizenship after being discharged from the army.

### Homeless Officers Seize Simferopol Hotel Rooms

*PM0603144992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 92 p 3*

["Our Correspondent" report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Homeless Black Sea Sailors Driven to Despair"]

[Text] Simferopol, 3 Mar—A group of homeless officers from the Black Sea Fleet division commanded by Major General Yuriy Tikhonov seized 15 rooms in a hotel owned by the Intourist joint-stock company. The hotel was built by Polish specialists, who left six months ago.

It is impossible to say how the incident would have ended had the combined unit command and the division commander personally not intervened. The officers and their families heeded the demands, requests, and the voice of reason and vacated the premises.

"It was a step born out of despair," said Colonel Vladimir Karpov, division chief of staff. "The officers were simply driven to extremes. Judge for yourself: There are 394 of them without apartments in the division, while 270 officers and 39 NCO's [noncommissioned officers] rent private accomodation. And this, despite the fact that many have priority in allocation of accomodation. Thus there are 34 servicemen who saw combat action in Afghanistan, six took part in clearing up the aftermath of the accident at the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station], five have three or more children, six have seriously ill children or wives. Only one of our six unit commanders has an apartment. There is one unit where 87 percent of the servicemen are without an apartment. The average provision of accomodation in the division is under 50 percent. And not everyone is able to rent an apartment or even a room in Simferopol—this costs 800-1,500 rubles. Many landlords demand payment for the apartment six or even 12 months in advance, with 50 percent of the sum in freely convertible currency. Where is an officer or NCO to get hard currency? Here there is not even enough of the ordinary 'confetti' money to live on.

"Since 1990, when we were put under the Black Sea Fleet, the division has not received a single apartment. We appreciate the difficult situation the fleet is in, but that does not make it any easier for us.

"The Fleet, incidentally, has begun constructing a block of 50 apartments in Marino. We are also promised an apartment block in Saki to rehouse those discharged into the reserve. But even the implementation of these plans will not solve the problems.

"We persuaded the officers to leave the rooms they had seized. A sense of duty and honor prevailed. However, where is the guarantee that disorganization, despair, and degradation will not force the underprivileged officers to take even more resolute measures?..."

In reality there is no such guarantee. And the spontaneous actions of the desperate military men do not bode well. How much longer can their endless suffering and decency be exploited?

### Foreign Ministry Introduces Visa Regulations

*LD0803165392 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in English 2200 GMT 5 Mar 92*

[Text] The Ukraine's Foreign Ministry has introduced a new visa regime. Its substantial simplification in comparison with the previous one will promote the development of the foreign economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation of our country with foreign states. Now guests from abroad will be able to fill in all the required documents for a brief stay in Ukraine right on its border.

Visas which will be registered after 10 March by the missions of other countries will be considered valid and this means that all the currency from the realization of such visa policy will be channelled not to Moscow, as was the case before, but to the republic's budget.

### Former Kiev Commander Undertakes Hunger Strike

*OW0603173992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The former Kiev military district commander Colonel-General Victor Chichevatov has gone on a hunger-strike in Kiev.

He protests human rights abuse by the Ukrainian leadership and the decay of the united armed forces. Chichevatov accuses the media of spreading falsehoods about the armed forces of the former Soviet Union and himself.

He is going to continue his hunger-strike till March 20 when the CIS leaders are going to meet to discuss the problems of the armed forces.

### Kiev Military Officers Lack Marksmanship Skills

*LD0703081792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] More than one-third of officers in the Kiev Military District cannot shoot. This is the finding of a district competition among officers from motor rifle units on field training. Tank crew officers have the same result. More than one-third received unsatisfactory marks.

## Belarus

### French Military Delegation Ends Visit

*LD0703055292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 5 Mar 92*

[Text] Jacques Mellick, secretary of state to the defense minister of France, and the delegation he heads of military experts and specialists from the defense industry, have ended a two-day visit in Belarus. Direct contacts were established between Belarus and France during talks with the leaders of the Supreme Soviet, the Council of Ministers, and the Ministry of Defense of Belarus. Cooperation was agreed in the sphere of defense and conversion of the military industrial complex. The sides agreed to exchange information on the priorities of conversion and investments in the defense industry and in the transition to civilian production.

### Shushkevich Briefs Newsmen on Formation of Army

*PM0903144392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Mar 92 p 1*

[Colonel P. Chernenko report under the "Direct Line" rubric]

[Text] Minsk, 5 Mar—**"In Creating Its Own Armed Forces, Belarus Will, in all Probability, Go the Same Way as Ukraine"** This has been stated to journalists by Belarussian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich at a recent news conference. We have allocated a two-year transitional period for the creation of our own army, he stressed, and we will try to keep to this deadline, although it involves many difficulties. Chief among them is having the highest troop concentration of all the CIS countries.

Answering questions on military problems, the head of parliament noted that so far the work on military documents "could not be going any worse." This is explained by the fact that all documents are still being prepared by General Staff representatives, who are not that interested in changes in the Armed Forces, unable and unwilling to change their way of thinking in the current conditions, and who cannot make specific, constructive proposals for reorganizing the army or bringing its structures into line with the new political thinking and the changed situation.

The news conference was held on the initiative of the Belarussian Supreme Soviet chairman with the aim, as he put it himself, of "expressing my viewpoint on the situation in the republic."

### Banks Refuse To Hand Over Party Funds

*LD0203032192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 1 Mar 92*

[Text] The national bank of Belarus has sent the Council of Ministers a letter in which it explains that commercial and joint stock banks in the republic have refused to comply with a government decision that they must hand over Belarus Communist Party [CPB] funds to the state budget.

According to Republican TV, the treasury has so far received only 23 million out of the 105 million rubles identified as being party funds. The assets of the former CPB are estimated to total 5 billion rubles at old prices.

### Government Purchasing Grain With Hard Currency

*LD2802214992 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian 2230 GMT 20 Feb 92*

[Text] What is the situation in the republic with grain products? For a normal life, Belarussians need 5.1 million tonnes of grain a year. Last year, state and collective farms delivered 1.1 million tonnes; 4 million are to be procured outside Belarus. There were 830,000 tonnes purchased in Kazakhstan last year. Another 100,000 tonnes will be delivered from there before the new harvest.

The Belarussian Government adopted a resolution on immediate measures for providing the republic with grain for 1992. It is envisaged to use 50 percent of enterprises' hard currency resources as a forcible measure. It improved the situation somehow. Before the resolution, the Ministry of Grain Products had in its account only 4,000 hard currency rubles [R]. It now has R13 million.

Two barter deals were recently concluded with one Austrian firm and one Polish firm. In exchange for Belarussian deliveries of material and technical resources, they are unloading 510,000 tonnes of wheat and rye. Negotiations are being held for purchasing another 100,000 tonnes of rye for hard currency. Therefore, as assures Styapan (?Strelich), minister of grain products, there will be no interruption in the bread supply. The situation with mixed fodder is worse. They are in catastrophically short supply. In the future, poultry-keeping and stock-raising complexes will be provided with this fodder according to their minimal needs.

Another circumstance: According to statistics, state and collective farms of the republic, after selling grain to the state, keep for better days another 5 million tonnes of grain. Part of it is being now sold at the commodity exchange at R5,600 a ton while the ministry pays R2,000-2,500. With hard currency, the Ministry of Grain Products can buy extra grain from its own collective farms. The producers of grain are in no hurry to do that as they are trying to exchange it for a combine harvester, a tractor, a binder and fertilizers—the famous barter again. Special regulations are being worked out now on internal hard currency purchases in order to involve after all the grain resources in the Belarussian farms.

### Official Interviewed on Economic Situation

*LD2902115892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1342 GMT 24 Feb 92*

[Report by correspondent Petr Makritskiy on 24 February news conferences in Belarus]

[Excerpt] The two news conferences held today have one thing in common: the economic problems and working out new approaches to resolving them. I got the impression that the Belarussian Council of Ministers is taking what one might call desperate measures to stabilize the situation. Facts and figures were cited indicating that over January and February the situation has gotten worse. This is how Sergey Stepanovich Ling, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the republic and chairman of the State Economic Commission of Belarus, answered my question about the economic situation in the republic:

[Begin Ling recording] January and February started poorly. The main reason is the disruption of economic links and the lack of flow of supplies. Agreements were concluded in the CIS that no less than 70 percent of the material resources supplied in the previous year should be handed over, but for what reasons I do not know. It may be some sort of game, but it seems that things are no longer under control in Russia. That is a major republic from which we receive two-thirds of these resources. Links have started to be broken quite systematically. There has been a huge decline in Belarus now.

In the government we have examined issues connected with the financial situation. We have helped the state of affairs in many enterprises: about 1,500 million [currency not specified] has been spent on them following the government decision on helping them. About 1,500 million [currency not specified] has been earmarked for the fund to assist science. At the CIS conference we put forward the proposal to establish tight economic sanctions. I think that, while preserving these links, if we conclude intergovernmental agreements among ourselves, there must be accountability for fulfilling them. We have no accountability mechanism. [end recording] [passage omitted]

## Moldova

### Commission Trying To Solve Dnestr Crisis

*LD0703014592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1854 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[From the "Politics" section—"A Conciliatory Commission Works in the Dnestr Area"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] Dubossary—On March 5, a conciliatory commission, trying to settle the conflict in the Dnestr area, signed a protocol envisaging a de-blocking, starting from March 7, of bridges and resumption of transportation. This is going to be a second document worked out by plenipotentiaries of the rival sides.

However, armed clashes continued on March 5 in Dubossary. PF [POSTFACTUM] was told at the press center of the president of the Pridniestroviye Moldovan Republic that armed Moldovan formations and OMON (special police detachments) had carried out several armed acts of provocation against republican guardsmen. Two persons were wounded when a large-caliber machine gun fired on a guard post on the Dubossary dam. A heavy fighting took place on the Pyryt Bridge. On March 5, a group of unidentified persons clad in Dnestr Guard uniform fired on sentries posted by an engineer brigade in Dubossary. The command of the Dnestr Guard considers this as another provocative act of the Moldovan side which has swamped the area with sabotage groups. It has not been possible to establish the identity of the attackers.

By 2200 local time on March 5, the shooting between the rival sides intensified. There were reports from different sources that a storming of Dubossary was planned for the midnight of March 5. However, the command of the Dnestr Guard, taking in account its superiority in forces, was more concerned with a possible attack by a Moldovan OMON detachment from Kochier across the Dnestr over to the right coast, therefore, it fortified this direction. However, the night passed in calm.

Cossack units keep arriving in the town. In the evening, Viktor Ratiyev, field ataman (chief) of the Don Cossack Regiment, received a telegram from Cossack Master Sergeant Kolodkin informing him that Don Cossacks, with their sacred relics, are all prepared to go to help Dubossary. Kuban Cossacks also arrive to the town.

PF learned that the National Christian Party on March 5 called on the parliament and government of Moldova to arm volunteers. Let every village have a well-trained detachment, and every town a regiment. It is only in this way that we shall be able to hold out as a people and state, the document says. The party called on Moldovan people's deputies to come back to their constituencies and assist formation of armed volunteer detachments.

March 6 is another day of mourning in Tiraspol—Vasiliy Voronkov, Leonid Tolstenko, Sergey Titovskiy, and Sergey Shinkov will be buried, who were killed in defending a barracks building of the Civil Defense Regiment. The youngest of them was only 23 years old.

### Blockade of 14th Army Headquarters Ends

*LD0703104792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0954 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev, 7 Mar (TASS)—Only this morning was the blockade of the 14th Army headquarters lifted and its command personnel—including the commander, Major General Yuriy Netkachev—released. Yesterday,

to all intents and purposes, they were taken captive by the right wing of the United Council of Labor Collectives (UCLC) of Tiraspol and the local women's committee.

The command had been given an ultimatum: The personnel and all their military hardware must be sent to defend the borders of the Dnestr Republic, which the parliament of Moldova has deemed unconstitutional. The Army was instructed to hand over all their hardware and weapons to the Dnestr authorities. After receiving a categorical refusal from the Army command, the leaders of the UCLC and the women's committee attempted until morning to persuade the officers of the 59th Motorized Rifle Division to take part in combat operations against Moldova.

The officers issued an ultimatum of their own, however, demanding that their commander be released and transported to the division with the leaders of the Dnestr region. As a result of negotiations, the blockade of the 14th Army was lifted and its command personnel released.

Maj. Gen. Yuriy Netkachev declared that this Army was subordinate to the CIS and would not carry out any demands from the leadership of the so-called Dnestr Republic.

### Army Council Warns of Dangerous 'Escalation'

*LD0703110992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1040 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev, 7 Mar (TASS)—Instances of violent entry onto the territory of military units to seize arms will be resolutely stopped, as required by military regulations, according to a statement issued by the Military Council of the 14th Army, stationed in Tiraspol.

As we have already reported, a blockade of the army's headquarters, staged by the right wing of the United Council of Labor Collectives of Tiraspol and the local women's committee, was lifted only this morning.

The document says that the political confrontation on the territory of Moldova, which has been marked recently by armed clashes between the opposing sides, is turning into a dangerous military escalation. The people behind provocative acts are trying by all means to draw the Army into these operations. For instance, on 2 March a group of local residents staged an attack on a civil defense base in the village of Kochiyery and seized automatic small-arms weapons and ammunition there.

The ill-planned and insufficiently prepared operations to release the blockaded Dnestr guardsmen on the territory of the Kochiyery military settlement led to further casualties among the guardsmen, the statement notes. Officers of the regiment were also injured.

### Dnestr Leader Proclaims Himself Army Chief

*AU0703143892 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1144 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 7/3/1992—The developments in the so-called "Dnestr Republic" have been more and more dangerous and their aftermath could be tragic, says MOLDOVA PRES.

Friday, March 6, the strike committee of Russian-speaking women sieged the headquarters of the 14th Army, and Igor Smirnov, the "president" of the Dnester Republic proclaimed himself commander of the Army.

The legitimate commander, Major General Yuriy Neskachev was reported to have not been in the command centre, when it was sieged.

Resort to weapons has been opened, mentions MOLDOVA PRES, that adds that the radio station of the town of Tiraspol keeps on instigating the population, asking it not to leave the Army headquarters.

### CIS Army Affirms Noninvolvement in Conflict

*OW0703143492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [7 March] the Military Council of the 14th Army of the CIS Armed Forces stationed in Moldova issued a statement, pointing out that it's inadmissible to interfere in army affairs and stir up hysteria in and around the army.

The statement says in particular that the military command "has no right to put soldiers' lives at risk", and that it strongly opposes the army's involvement in the ethnic conflict which is becoming increasingly political. The military warn that they will resolutely prevent all attempts to penetrate army compounds for the purpose of seizing arms.

The statement follows Friday's [6 March] incident when numerous supporters of the United Council of Labor Staffs and the Dnestr Region Women's Strike Committee blocked the 14th Army's headquarters demanding that the commander of the army Major-General Netkachev allot a force "for defending the border of the Dnestr Republic".

The military command categorically refused to do so explaining that "the move would mark the beginning of civil war". Its spokesmen urged the demonstrators to stop the action and release the detained Army Commander. On Saturday at about 4 am the blockade of the army headquarters was lifted.

### Dnester Leader Assassination Attempt Foiled

*OW0703140992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Tiraspol on Friday [6 March] there was an attempt to kill Igor Smirnov, leader of the Dnestr Republic, IF [INTERFAX] learned from Valeriy Litskai, press secretary of the republic's president. Three unidentified men with firearms tried to attack the president after the funeral of guardsmen who died in a clash with Moldovan policemen in Dubossary earlier this week.

I. Smirnov's bodyguards managed to stop the attackers, one of whom fled. Two others were detained. Investigations are underway.

### Residents Suspend Accord To Lift Blockade

*LD0703225992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We have just received a report from our correspondent in the Dnestr area about the conflict continuing there for the second day:

[Unidentified correspondent] The beginning of March has long been the time when the holiday of spring, peace, and concord—Mertsishora—is marked in Moldova. Unfortunately, this year's March is marked by confrontation and casualties. The new armed conflict on the Dnestr banks is continuing for the seventh day today. A total of seven people have been killed in the Dubossary region over this period and over 40 defenders and residents of the Dnestr area have been wounded. A journalist was among those wounded.

Today, in accordance with an agreement reached during talks, the blockade of roads and bridges linking the left and right banks was to be lifted, but the people of the Dnestr area have suspended the implementation of this point of the agreement in light of the continuous shelling and provocations by Moldovan forces.

The story of a hijacking of a special combat vehicle from the territory of the 14th Army regiment which had a container with radioactive cesium on board has been clarified at last. Colonel (Budigay), a member of a special commission of the Moldovan civil defense headquarters, said to leaders of the Dubossary town soviet that ampules containing cesium are in place and that they are being guarded again. The radioactive situation is within norm and there are no reasons for concern.

After yesterday's blockade of the building of the headquarters of the 14th Army of the CIS Armed Forces by Tiraspol women, which lasted for almost 10 hours, its military council issued a statement today. It says that the Army subdivisions have not taken part and will not take part in the conflict either on the side of Moldova or on the side of the Dnestr area.

### No 'Significant Results' Reached After Talks

*AU0703205092 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Report from Chisinau by correspondent Gabriel Ionescu]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, the Conciliation Commission's third meeting on the situation on the Dnestr River's left bank ended in Dubossary tonight. The Moldovan delegation, led by Mr. Andrei Sangheli, vice prime minister of the government, and the delegation of separatists from the eastern part of the Republic could not reach significant results. From governmental sources I learned that the situation is relatively calm, with both sides in control of the situation in the conflict area.

According to a communique of the Press Bureau of the Republic of Moldova's Interior Ministry, armed separatists from the so-called Transdniestrian guard continue their actions of vandalism, terror, blackmail, repression, and threat against the peaceful population and the police. Today, at 1050, armed guardists in trucks detained eight employees of the city's police station in various residential areas of Tighina, who were manhandled and released at 1230. Two police majors also were attacked. The Interior Ministry's Press Bureau says that such incidents have become quite frequent and are aimed at increasing tension. The communique emphasizes the efforts of the republic's leadership to resolve the conflict through peaceful means. Moldova's Interior Ministry reserves the right to resort to appropriate steps to end such actions, the communique reads.

Esteemed listeners, I would like to remind you that the leadership of the Republic of Moldova met to examine the situation on the left bank of the Dnestr River. It reiterated the principle that no bloodshed will be permitted to solve the conflict.

### Guards Take Police Officers Hostage in Bendery

*LD0803101292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0946 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev, 8 Mar (TASS)—In the last 24 hours police officers in the town of Bendery have been taken hostage with increased frequency by Dnestr guards, the Moldova Internal Affairs Ministry reports today. The Ministry states that given the current situation it "reserves the right to take adequate measures to stop incidents of brigandage".

So, for the time being, the normalization of the situation lies far ahead.

### Coffins to Romania Indicate Involvement

*LD0903111792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1545 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to reports from Moldova, talks are set to be resumed in the town of Bendery tomorrow between representatives of the authorities and of the Russophone population of the Left Bank region. The situation in the Dnestr region is still difficult.

Shots can still be heard in Dubossary. During the night of 7-8 March, after lengthy shelling of the bridge at (?Pyryta), Corporal (Sergey Alekseyevich Fursov) was killed. Rarely a day passes without the names of new casualties in the widening conflict coming in.

It has been learned from unofficial sources that 28 coffins have been dispatched from Moldova to Romania, which may be further evidence of Romanian involvement in what clearly is a large and bloody slaughter, if not a war.

Nevertheless, there are as yet no precise figures on casualties on the Moldovan side.

The blockade of the 14th Army unit has been lifted completely. Interestingly enough, while the commander, General Netkachev, was having consultations on what action to take, the 14th Army was commanded by (Galina Andreyeva), chairwoman of the women's strike committee.

Tension again is on the increase in Bendery. The talks in the conciliation committees are coming to resemble an ordinary round table, since none of the decisions or agreements adopted are being observed; first and foremost, the agreement on a cease-fire. There has been a perceptible increase in the number of cossacks arriving here. In Tiraspol itself, dissatisfaction with the government has become stronger noticeably, clearly facilitated by the diametrically opposed policies of the Smirnov government, the women's strike committee, and the united council of labor collectives.

### Snegur Denies Involvement

*LD0803205492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1854 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev, 8 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur tonight sent a telegram to Boris Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov protesting today's "Novosti" report that citizens of a neighboring state—Romania—are participating in the conflict on the left bank of the Dnestr and that 28 coffins were sent from Moldovan territory to Romania.

The Moldovan leader writes that such reports are completely unfounded and aim to destabilize the situation and escalate the Pridnestrovye conflict even further. Moreover, this is outright interference in the Republic of Moldova's internal affairs and another attempt to provoke an international conflict.

Presdent Mircea Snegur stressed once again that the republic's leadership is trying to reduce tension, stabilize the situation through political means, and prevent bloodshed in the left bank rayons of Moldova.

### Snegur: Dnestr Left Bank 'Concentration Camp'

*OW0903142692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on the republican radio on Monday [9 March], Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said that "in pretending to defend human rights, the hypocritical Dnestr leaders have been turning the left bank territory into a military-communist concentration camp." In his view, the units of the CIS Armed Forces stationed there "have long lived in an atmosphere of mass psychosis," which has prompted a group of career officers with ex-commander of the 14th Army Gen. Yakovlev at their head, as well as many reservists, to cross over to the separatists' side. According to Snegur, unlawful armed units "abundantly supplied with sophisticated weapons and equipment," with support from "mercenaries calling themselves 'Russian Cossacks', are committing outrage against the peaceful civilians."

### Armed Units Reportedly 'Terrorizing' Servicemen

*OW0903143492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [9 March], the National Security Ministry in Moldova accused armed units in the Dnestr area of terrorizing servicemen of the 14th CIS Army.

The ministry cited an incident whereby Col. Stepygiyn, a 14th Army staff officer, was hit with a gun handle on the head and taken away in a car on Sunday [8 March]. One of the attackers was Valeriy Gratov, chief of the bodyguards of the Dnestr Republic's President Igor Smirnov. The colonel was released late on Sunday night.

According to the Security Ministry, Col. Stepygiyn was attacked after the 14th Army command refused to cross over to the Dnestr Republic's side or supply local military units with firearms.

The Moldovan ministry demanded that the Dnestr militants surrender their weapons to the Moldovan authorities.

## Talks 'Proceeding With Great Difficulty'

*LD0903171192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1549 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 9 Mar—A routine session of the conciliation commission in charge of settling the conflict in the Dnestr Republic took place in the Moldovan town of Bendery today. Representatives of Chisinau and Tiraspol discussed around the negotiating table the course of the implementation of agreements to cease-fire and withdraw the armed formations. The sides agreed to take additional measures to prevent an escalation of the conflict. In particular, it was decided that investigative bodies from both sides would look into the causes of its escalation and that security zones would be set up in areas of armed conflict.

It is the view of the participants in the conciliation commission that their work to settle the conflict is proceeding with great difficulty and that it is increasingly coming up against the insolubility of political problems in Moldova.

## Agreement on Security Zones

*OW0903172192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of Moldova and the Dnestr region agreed Monday [9 March] to create security zones in places of armed confrontation and to launch a joint investigation into the reasons of the conflict.

At a meeting of the conciliatory commission in Bendery, the two sides also discussed conditions for the implementation of a cease-fire and mutual withdrawal of armed units. They also agreed to exchange their timetables for the withdrawal and to take additional measures to prevent new armed conflicts.

As is known, on March 1 night armed clashes between Moldovan policemen and Dnestr guardsmen occurred near Dubossary leaving 7 people killed and about 50 wounded.

## Armenia

### Government Announces Military Mobilization

*LD0703214992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent Petr Fil] [passage omitted] Yerevan: The Armenian Supreme Soviet announced today the mobilization of all those up to 50 years of age liable for military service. Military Commissar Stepanyan declared that the newly mustered units will defend those regions of the republic that could become the objects of assault. Armenia has considered it necessary to embark on this step because it does not have national military formations.

[Announcer Tatyana Mitkova] All this information was received via the channels of the international video exchange from western news agencies and ITAR-TASS.

### Official Denies Mobilization

*LD0803084292 Moscow TASS in English 0823 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[By TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 8 TASS—Colonel Levon Stepanyan, military commissioner of Armenia, has categorically denied reports by some news organisations about a mobilisation in the republic. "There can be no question of any mobilisation in Armenia, just as about a call-up of reservists," he told ITAR-TASS on Sunday [8 March] morning.

A decision was only taken to form self-defence battalions from among reservists in large areas of the republic, the commissioner said.

The battalions are not armed and are being created exclusively for the purpose of defending their areas, maintaining the public order on their territories, and giving assistance to local authorities under emergency circumstances. "We do not pursue any other aims," the colonel emphasised.

### President Ready for Unilateral Cease Fire

*LD0903094192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Text] In an interview with the French newspaper LIBERATION, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has said that following the resignation of President Mutalibov, Armenia expects military pressure on Nagorno-Karabakh to increase, as the new Azerbaijani authorities must show that they are more effective than the outgoing president.

Armenia is ready for a unilateral cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh without any conditions, Ter-Petrosyan said. If Azerbaijan does not force Armenians to defend themselves, we are ready to begin direct talks on international mediation and on the French proposal to establish a humanitarian corridor in Nagorno-Karabakh and to send foreign observers there, the Armenian president said.

### Discusses Conflict

*LD0703202292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1355 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Interview with Armenian President Levon Akopovich Ter-Petrosyan by program host Aleksandr Lyubimov and "political scientists" Andranik Migranyan and Igor Klyamkin; Ter-Petrosyan is in the Yerevan studio, while his interlocutors are in the Moscow studio; from the "Red Square" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Lyubimov] We are now joined by Yerevan, and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. Levon Akopovich, we have agreed here that Russia has no nationalities policy and that efforts by some deputies, as has been discovered, are in fact on a personal basis rather than due to a governmental decision. Settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, so to speak, is not Russian nationalities policy. Do you feel a Russian influence on Nagorno-Karabakh today?

[Ter-Petrosyan] I must say, I heard what Viktor Leonidovich said and I almost completely agree with his assessment. However, I would like to add that this does not mean that Russia does not think about it. Russia simply has no time to deal with these problems.

[Lyubimov] Questions, please.

[Migranyan] Mr. President, is it possible to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the CIS framework under the current circumstances?

[Ter-Petrosyan] I think it is possible if goodwill is shown and certain mechanisms are devised: first, a mechanism for observing the approved agreements; and second, a mechanism for applying appropriate sanctions to violators of Commonwealth principles, primarily with regard to human rights and national minorities. These violations are obvious.

I would also like to lay special emphasis on the following: setting up forces to restrain the two sides [sily sderzhivaniya] within the CIS. I heard a certain skepticism expressed in this respect. I would like to say that there is interest in setting up these forces not only on the Armenian side but also on the Russian and Kazakh side. All 11 Commonwealth members need not help set up these forces. These eight republics—the eight states who signed the treaty on setting up CIS united armed forces at the last meeting in Minsk—they can sign this treaty.

I would like to draw your attention to an additional feature: These forces are necessary not for Nagorno-Karabakh only. There are a lot of problems in the former

union, and new ones will appear. We must set up these forces sooner or later. This also has political ramifications since Russia has a lot of these problems and Russia cannot act in these conflicts using its own forces. It would immediately be accused of imperialism, chauvinism, and so on and so forth. These international forces will lift such accusations, in my view. This is exactly what the United States did in the Persian Gulf conflict.

[Klyamkin] I would like to ask a completely different question: You recently said that the CIS regiment's withdrawal could lead to large-scale war under certain circumstances. The video clip we just saw on the situation makes it more or less clear that it has begun already. How do you assess that prospect now? How likely is it?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Generally speaking, the situation is very dangerous. As for the regiment, I must repeat what the regiment itself has said: It has never participated in hostilities, combat operations. Individuals in some instances may have acted on their own accord, but I cannot say—I do not rule that out; this sort of thing is happening in the Army everywhere else. However, its very presence in this region was a restraining factor, a stabilizing factor. I feel it is a mistake to confine oneself to this one step. This step should have been followed by others.

[Migranyan] Mr. President, bearing in mind the fact that Yeltsin recently called for UN troops to be sent to Nagorno-Karabakh and bearing in mind those fears that establishing containment forces within the CIS may be blocked, is it possible to find other levers and other mechanisms outside the CIS borders? What structures and forces might mediate or act as guarantors for stability in this region?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Both I, personally, and our Armenian authorities are very keen for the CIS to become a properly functioning organism, a living mechanism. Therefore, we would very much like this question to be resolved within the CIS framework. However, since all the CIS member states are currently preoccupied with their own affairs, it really is necessary to involve other organizations, above all the CSCE. If the CSCE approach does not succeed, then the focus will have to be widened still further with UN involvement.

[Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 7 March, during its regularly scheduled "Novosti" newscast, carries the following recorded remarks by Ter-Petrosyan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict during an interview with an unidentified correspondent at an unidentified place, on 6 or 7 March. "I hope Azerbaijan's new authorities will not repeat Mutalibov's mistakes. However, from the psychological point of view, the new authorities are accusing Mutalibov of not acting effectively in Nagorno-Karabakh and of not managing to deport Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh by force, and they will probably try to prove that they can do that. That is my first assessment. Unfortunately, my fears are being realized, for battles have been waged along Nagorno-Karabakh's entire border with Azerbaijan since this morning."]

### Minister Summarizes Events in Nagorno-Karabakh

*NC0803183092 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1500 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Statement by Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, in Yerevan on 7 March—recorded]

[Text] The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh has deteriorated in the last few days following large-scale Azerbaijani offensives against almost the entire territory of the republic, in particular [word indistinct] on Askeran Rayon and Stepanakert. The Azerbaijanis took the fighting to Shaumyanovskiy Rayon today. Fighting is ongoing around Karachinar. Their attack was focused against Mardakert and Askeran. They used artillery and armored cars in fighting in Mardakertskiy Rayon. These forces were checked and counter-attacked at Kichan. The forces were extremely unbalanced at Kazandzhi, in particular as regards the equipment. The defenders of Kazandzhi did their best, but in the end it was not possible to [words indistinct].

The attack on Askeran began yesterday noon with tanks and armored cars being used. The fighting continued late into the night. The fighting is basically continuing around the [word indistinct] factory near Askeran. Our boys managed to check the attack and repulsed the enemy's forces. The fighting continues today but is much less intense. The danger remains, however, that it might flare up at any moment.

The defense forces in Askeran have been augmented by detachments from Stepanakert. The defense of [word indistinct] has been strengthened. I am sure that Askeran's defenses are sound. Reports that Askeran has been occupied and that we have suffered many losses are utter lies. The defense of Askeran is strong, and we will augment that defense in every way possible.

The fighting around Karachinar is less intense.

We believe that once the [Stepanakert] airport reopens—and conditions are favorable now—we will be able to improve the situation. The defending forces in Stepanakert (?need fuel). We will get them fuel regardless of price. [words indistinct] flights used to transport flour and fuel to Nagorno-Karabakh. Those flights have been stopped. We hope that these flights will resume within a few days.

### Paratroopers' Acts, Russia's Stance Questioned

*NC0803171392 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1500 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] Reports from Stepanakert indicate that paratroopers brought into Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR]

ostensibly to ensure the secure withdrawal of the 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment, are (?acting) oddly. The paratroopers are occupying key positions on the Republic's roads, hindering freight transportation. They also reportedly are shooting at and injuring passengers. Without reason, the troops have fired on the Armenian village of Balludzha, in Askeranskiy Rayon, killing one resident. Due to these events, the NKR leadership is confused over what Russia's true stance on the conflict is.

Gegam, NKR Supreme Soviet press secretary, also reported that the Armenian-inhabited village of Karin-Tak has been shelled continuously for the last few days from gun emplacements in Shusha. He expressed the fear that an attack on Martuni, where 10 homes were destroyed by Grad rockets yesterday, is imminent. Fortunately, no casualties have been reported.

Bagdasaryan added that the NKR leadership is puzzled at the stance taken by Russian television. The media, he said, disseminated distorted information about the incident in Khodzhaly 10 days ago and is now ignoring the Azerbaijani Army's occupation and burning down of the Armenian-inhabited village of Kazandzhi, in Mardakertskiy, yesterday. All the residents who did not flee were killed. Only 27 bodies, mostly those of women, were taken out of the village. In addition, only recently the Armenian-inhabited villages of Artsavashen, formerly (?Hezbulla), and Hatsavan, formerly (?Yarumdzha), were wiped off the face of the earth, their inhabitants having been butchered. Russian television reporters, however, have been uncommonly silent about these incidents.

### Visit by Turkey's Foreign Minister Reported

*NC0603181692 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1500 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] Baku Radio reported that Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin arrived in the Azerbaijani capital yesterday of Baku for a brief visit. The radio reported that Cetin arrived in Baku after a tour to a number of CIS countries at the instructions of Turkish Prime Minister Demirel. It appears from the radio report that the Turkish foreign minister did not go to Baku; rather, he held a closed-door meeting with Azerbaijani Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov and other officials at Bina airport. Turkish Ambassador to Moscow Volkan Vural and Turkish Ambassador to Baku Altan Karamanoglu also took part in the meeting.

After the meeting, a press conference was held for Azerbaijani and foreign reporters at the airport's conference room. The reporters were presented with the text of an official joint declaration on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. The document notes that the sides intend to appeal to the international community and to international organizations to adopt concrete measures to prevent further bloodshed.

In replying to reporters' questions, Gasanov said that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has become a regional conflict and the issue must be tackled from this angle. Gasanov is looking to convene a meeting of all the nations that have interests in the conflict zone. He believes that—in addition to Azerbaijan and Armenia—Turkey, Iran, Georgia, and possibly Russia and Ukraine could take part in the meeting. He said that the meeting's goal should be to limit the spread of the conflict and to discourage third parties from becoming involved.

The Turkish foreign minister said that his country, using its international prestige and political influence, will channel all its efforts to settling the conflict through peaceful means at this difficult time for Azerbaijan. Turkey shares your people's grief and will provide exhaustive assistance, he said.

Cetin also announced that Turkish doctors will soon arrive in Azerbaijan to provide support. Medical equipment, medicines, and other types of humanitarian assistance will be provided as well.

Baku Radio reports that after the press conference, Cetin and his delegation left for Ankara.

## Azerbaijan

### Further on Mutalibov Resignation, Aftermath

#### Details Reported

*MK0703090092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Mar 92 pp 1, 2*

[Mamed Safarli report: "Azerbaijan: Parliament Under Siege. Mutalibov's Resignation Demanded as People Accuse Him of Perjury. Mutalibov Goes"]

[Text] On 5 March, after parliament had granted the request of its speaker, Elmira Kafarova, to resign, a single-candidate secret ballot was held to elect the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. The parliamentary opposition did not take part in the voting. Yakub Mamedov, rector of the medical university and the candidate of the former communist bloc, was elected speaker with 89.4 percent of the vote. Then, at the proposal of opposition deputies, parliamentarians watched a video recording showing the tragedy in Khodzhaly. After this parliament listed to the report of President Mutalibov, who against all expectations failed on this occasion also to set out a plan for the speediest solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis. "Serious defensive positions must be created in rayons bordering Armenia," Mutalibov stated. "Special attention must be paid to defending the republic's airspace and stopping unsanctioned helicopter flights from Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh." Mutalibov went on to note that "we must also clear all the occupied Azerbaijani villages in Nagorno-Karabakh of Armenian terrorists." Mutalibov particularly mentioned the contribution of Rakhim Gaziyev, commander of the emergency headquarters for the defense of Shusha,

to the creation of a national army. The president declared that all the efforts of the republic's Defense Ministry, Ministry of National Security, and Ministry of Internal Affairs should now be concentrated on coordinating actions, and defensive positions in the area of Agdam, which adjoins Nagorno-Karabakh, should be strengthened. In the president's opinion, the combat capability of the Azerbaijani Army is now causing concern and attention should be paid to training personnel. Mutalibov complained that not enough use is being made of the industrial potential of Baku and Sumgait in military organizational development. "We must take advantage of assistance from neighboring countries in order to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem," Mutalibov said in conclusion.

Opposition deputies who spoke in the debate on the report sharply criticized Mutalibov. Rakhim Gaziyev declared that the president's speech "contains nothing new, just general wishes." Gaziyev proposed immediately declaring general mobilization in Azerbaijan in order to send forces to the area of combat operations. "It is criminal to adopt a wait-and-see position at a time when the fate of our motherland is being decided," the deputy declared. Etibar Mamedov, one of the opposition leaders, read out from the rostrum a draft resolution saying that the Azerbaijani parliament passed a vote of no-confidence in Ayaz Mutalibov. Mamedov said that "the demand for Mutalibov's resignation comes not from the People's Front but from the entire Azerbaijani people." Colonel Iskander Gamidov, against whom there reportedly was an assassination attempt last week, declared: "Azerbaijan's entire leadership, which came to power illegally after the occupation of Azerbaijan by Soviet Army units in January 1990, must resign unconditionally." Gamidov warned that "unless this happens, a civil war will break out in the republic."

Gamidov noted that "the demand for the president's resignation also is justified because Mutalibov has violated the oath he swore when he was elected to this post." "The tragedy in Khodzhaly has shown that the president cannot ensure the safety of his citizens," Gamidov concluded, after which Deputy Araz Ali-zade proposed that a state of emergency be introduced in Azerbaijan.

While the deputies were in session, a continuous rally in which up to 20,000 people participated was going on around the parliament building. The demonstrators kept shouting one word: "Resign." By evening, when it had become clear that Mutalibov had categorically rejected the demand for his resignation, opposition supporters blocked all the exits from the parliament building. The authorities' attempts to begin negotiations with the demonstrators and to persuade them to disperse were unsuccessful. Refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh who had come to Baku were particularly active. The parliamentarians were forced to stay in the chamber and spend the whole night of 5-6 March discussing the political situation in the republic. Mutalibov, addressing the session for the second time, stressed that he would not allow a single group of deputies to pressure the entire parliament.

At around 0230, subunits of the CIS 4th Army stationed in Baku were moved up to the square outside the parliament building; according to the opposition, they went there at the request of the republic's leadership. Rakhim Gaziyev took the floor and stated: "Unless the CIS troops leave the square outside parliament in 10 minutes, I will call on patriotic soldiers from the National Army to come to the defense of parliament."

The subunits of the 4th Army were withdrawn. During the nighttime session the parliamentary deputies discussed the activity of the republic's executive branch. Characteristically, during the discussion of the opposition's demand for Mutalibov's resignation the demand was indirectly supported by some deputies who are not members of the "Independent Azerbaijan" bloc.

At 0630 on 6 March Yakub Mamedov, the chairman of parliament elected only the previous day, announced his resignation. He explained this by saying that "in such a situation it is simply impossible to lead parliament."

On the morning of 6 March all exits from parliament were still blocked by demonstrators. Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov had not taken part in the emergency session on 5 March because Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, who was making a tour of CIS countries, stopped over in Baku that day. While the crisis was coming to a head in the chamber of parliament, talks were taking place between Gasanov and Cetin behind closed doors in the Baku Airport guest lounge, after which the Azerbaijani prime minister and the head of the Turkish foreign policy department read out to journalists a joint communique "On the Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh."

This document puts forward a new initiative: holding within the next few days a multilateral conference on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem in which—besides Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, and Iran—Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine also could take part.

Gasan Gasanov still has not expressed publicly his attitude toward the opposition's demand for Mutalibov's resignation, but according to a report from Baku by a correspondent of the ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY, Gasanov stated in a private conversation with one local journalist: "I wonder how the president is going to continue to perform the functions of head of state after the Khodzhaly tragedy?"

At about 1800 local time on 6 March President Ayaz Mutalibov announced his resignation. Yakub Mamedov withdrew his resignation as speaker of parliament. The president's powers were transferred to the National Council.

### Government Resigns

*LD0603203292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Excerpts] Following the resignation of President Ayaz Mutalibov of Azerbaijan today, the republic's government headed by Gasan Gasanov resigned as well. The RIA agency reports that Gasanov has been instructed by parliament to form a new government.

An Associated Press correspondent in Baku believes that following the Azerbaijani administration's resignation, there could well be an escalation of the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh. [passage omitted].

The UN secretary general has called on the warring sides to immediately put an end to the military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh.

### Coup Report Denied

*LD0903042792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Text] On the evening of 8 March acting President of Azerbaijan Yakub Mamedov made an appeal to the people on republican television. He pointed out that the resignaton of Ayaz Mutalibov was not a coup d'etat and that Azerbaijan will continue to follow the basic principles which must be adhered to during the construction of a free, independent, democratic state.

Among the priority tasks Mamedov named preventing any attempts to set Azerbaijan at loggerheads with Russia or set the Azerbaijani people at loggerheads with the Russian-speaking population of the republic. He also called for prevention of any complications in relations with servicemen of the former Soviet Army stationed on the territory of Azerbaijan and for weapons illegally held by Azerbaijani citizens to be surrendered.

### Parliament To Debate Presidency

*OW0703144192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent was told at the press service of Azerbaijan's parliament, MPs [members of parliament] will consider the issue of electing a new president on Tuesday or Wednesday [10 or 11 March]. However it's already clear that the issue of preserving the presidency in the republic will be the most complex at the session. According to what opposition spokesmen told IF's correspondent, "the renunciation of presidential structure might save the republic from the currently undesirable strife for the highest office."

Nevertheless spokesmen for the opposition qualified A. Mutalibov's resignation as an "evidence that new democratic traditions in Azerbaijan's statehood strengthened". The military commandant of Shusha City Ragim Kaziyev, for one, pointed out that Mutalibov's resignation was "not only a courageous move, but also a political victory on the part of Mutalibov himself". Kaziyev didn't rule out the possibility of Ayaz Mutalibov's regaining leadership in Azerbaijan by democratic means in the near future.

"While today his resignation was needed to avoid a bloody confrontation in the republic, tomorrow Mutalibov with his extensive political experience might become irreplaceable for the country's leadership in new circumstances", said R. Kaziyev.

As for Ayaz Mutalibov, he told the parliament that he will no longer engage in political activity.

### Acting President Addresses Nation

*NC0803210692 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 8 Mar 92*

["Text" of a statement to the nation by Yakub Mamedov, acting Azerbaijani president and Supreme Soviet chairman; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed fellow countrymen, as the chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, the presidential powers were transferred to me following the president's resignation. I will retain these powers until presidential elections are held in accordance with the Constitution. It is in this role that I address the following appeal to the Azerbaijani people and all other citizens of the republic:

While assuming the state's highest office at this difficult time, I wish to make it known that the Azerbaijani Constitution is in force. The legislative and executive branches are functioning. The state is seeing to it that laws are obeyed; law and order is strengthened; and the rights of all citizens, regardless of their ethnic origin and religion, are safeguarded. Significant work is being carried out to strengthen the functions of the executive branch at various levels and upgrade the [word indistinct] of the officials.

Contrary to the enemy's propaganda, the wise decision by the republic's president to resign in order to help solve the current crisis has convincingly displayed to the entire world that legal and democratic principles are applied in the state administration system in Azerbaijan. The president's resignation was not unconstitutional. It was due to the need for [words indistinct].

At a time when the international media has focused its attention on Azerbaijan, we have to [words indistinct] and prove that we are a people determined to maintain our sovereignty through democratic ways and compliance with international law. The internal and external attempts to interfere in the very complex social and political developments must be considered independently. We have to plan the policy we will follow in our relations with the CIS. We should also adopt an approach on international relations. We must try to predict the effects our decisions will have in the outside

world. Learning from past experience, we must wage a determined struggle against the forces trying to create conflict between Azerbaijan and Russia and between Azerbaijanis and Russian-speaking people in Azerbaijan [words indistinct].

Esteemed fellow countrymen, the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers are taking immediate measures to unite the effort made by the people, the state, and the political movements to find a way to resolve the serious crisis in our republic. First, the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis, which deeply concerns Azerbaijan and each and every Azerbaijani, must be resolved and our borders must be effectively defended. Our relations with the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, which is an inseparable part of Azerbaijan, must be strengthened. Our citizens, who have been violently evicted from Nagorno-Karabakh, must be helped in every way.

All our efforts must be channeled toward (?developing) the homeland, particularly during the current serious circumstances. In accordance with the requirements of war and the transition period, (?conscientious) work must be performed in all administrations, establishments, educational institutions, production centers, and the agricultural domain—particularly with summer approaching. In accordance with the conditions of war and the requirements of the transition period, serious stands must be taken against those who avoid productive work in the social field. Specific instructions have been given to the pertinent organizations in that regard.

The maintenance of law and order is a must. (?The possession of arms must be) definitely banned so that provocative activities can be stopped. Illegal arms must be collected.

Concrete deadlines must be established for the realization of state and government decisions. Officials who fail to carry out these decisions must be removed and forced to take responsibility.

Democracy is not a state of lawlessness. Freedom is liberty within the concrete laws of the state. If we fail to heed this principle, we will never be able to overcome the economic crisis and stop spiraling inflation.

Esteemed citizens, I hope that the strength of the Azerbaijani people and the republic will give us the opportunity to (?maintain) our freedom and independence, defend and safeguard our territorial integrity, and establish a deserving place for Azerbaijan among the nations of the world.

### Mamedov Biography Detailed

*LD0903113592 Moscow TASS in English 1016 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Text] Moscow March 9 ITAR-TASS—Yakub Mamedov, elected chairman of the Azeri parliament on March 4, was appointed acting president after the resignation of President Ayaz Mutalibov. Until recently Mamedov was known mostly as medical scientist.

The following brief biographic information about Mamedov was supplied by the permanent Azeri mission in Moscow.

Yakub Dzhavad Ogly Mamedov was born in 1941. He began working in a collective farm after graduating from a secondary school in 1959. Later he received a higher education in the Azeri State Medical Institute and then finished post graduate courses there. Now he is a corresponding member of republican Academy of Sciences, doctor of medical sciences. From 1983 till 1992 Mamedov was rector of the Azeri Medical University. He is married with three children, two sons and a daughter.

It was earlier reported that presidential powers were granted to Mamedov by an extraordinary session of the republican parliament on March 6. He was expected to act as president until new elections, but, according to the press attache of the Azeri mission, the republic's parliament is now deciding the question of the state structure, and the institute of Presidency may be eliminated.

### President Seeks Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Talks

*LD0803171392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1545 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] News agencies have reported that Azerbaijani President Mamedov has called for peace talks on Nagorno-Karabakh. He said that he does not support a military solution. Fighting continued in Nagorno-Karabakh today, however, and Armenia announced the formation of self-defense battalions in major towns from among unarmed reservists. Authorities have decided to suspend gas supplies to the population and industrial enterprises throughout the Republic's territory. Moscow's Radio Echo reports from Yerevan that this also has something to do with relations with neighboring Azerbaijan; namely, tankers with fuel oil and gasoline for Armenia are being held up on Azerbaijani territory. Electric power stations are burning gas rather than fuel oil, explaining why there is even less of it now than before. The general regime of strict energy saving already has led Armenian television to end broadcasts. The electricity supply to homes is now switched off for 18 hours a day.

### Parliament Urges Peace

*LD0903115992 Moscow TASS in English 1136 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—The press centre of Nagorno-Karabakh's parliament issued a statement today in connection with the resignation of Azerbaijan's President Ayaz Mutalibov.

The statement expresses hope for "resolute steps to end military actions and a gradual establishment of political contacts between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh".

Nagorno-Karabakh authorities hope that the Azeri armed units will soon end the offensive against Nagorno-Karabakh's Askeran region.

In the meantime, the situation in the conflict zone remains tense, officials in the local Interior Ministry department told ITAR-TASS. The shelling of Askeran continued today. Early on Monday [9 March], militants in the Azeri village of Muganlu shelled the Nagorno-Karabakh city of Martuni. On Sunday, two Mi-24 Gunships attacked the Armenian village of Karachinar in Shaumyan district. Casualties were reported in all of the three cities.

### UN Chief 'Deeply Concerned'

*LD0803201292 Moscow TASS in English 2136 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kochetkov]

[Text] United Nations March 7 (TASS)—United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Ghali is deeply concerned over continuing armed clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh that have recently resulted in many victims, the U.N. Secretary-General's official spokesman said here on Friday [6 March].

On Thursday Butrus Ghali met Azeri Foreign Minister Gusein Sadykhov, who requested the secretary-general to assist in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh provokes special concern since Azerbaijan and Armenia were admitted to the United Nations a few days ago and took an obligation under the U.N. Charter to settle disputes by peaceful means, says the statement.

## Military Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh Detailed

### CIS Tanks in 'Large-Scale Offensive'

*LD0703224592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] [Correspondent] The Nagorno-Karabakh Press Center reported today that tanks belonging to Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] forces were taking part in the largest Azerbaijani offensive in the history of the conflict now under way—in particular, the 23d Division. Since the resignation of President Mutalibov in Azerbaijan yesterday, groups advocating a violent settlement to the conflict are gaining strength in the republic. At the end of today, TASS refuted the reports of CIS forces taking part in the hostilities.

The view of the current situation held by representatives of the warring sides' embassies in Moscow is quite contradictory:

[Begin Feliks Mamikonyan, permanent representative of Armenia in Moscow, recording] In particular, the [word indistinct] step was a large-scale offensive on Askeran Rayon in Nagorno-Karabakh. Nine tanks took part in the offensive. These [words indistinct] large tanks. It is the first time they have taken part in the hostilities; 20 APC's and 2,000 soldiers took part. A large-scale offensive was (?also) undertaken, and several Armenian centers of population were taken. There were many fatalities—more than 200 people died, according to our information. We have information that the landing force that was dropped in Nagorno-Karabakh for the withdrawal of the 366th regiment took an indirect part in these operations on the side of the Azerbaijani military units. [end recording]

[Correspondent] As regards the Azerbaijani side, it did not confirm the involvement of tanks in the operation. The permanent representative's press attache took the following position:

[Begin Fuad Gadzhiyev recording] I was not in Askeran, and I do not know if there were tanks there.

[Correspondent] He categorically denied reports of Russian airborne assault troops being involved in the fighting on the side of Azerbaijan. The actual operation, in the view of the Azerbaijani side, was...

[Gadzhiyev recording fades back in] ... of a defensive nature. In other words, we took preventive measures for the purpose of preventing the occupation of the remaining parts of Nagorno-Karabakh that are still unoccupied by Armenian armed units. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Feliks Mamikonyan commented on this statement as follows:

[Begin Mamikonyan recording] There is a brilliant phrase by the Czech writer [name indistinct], who said: The enemy viciously shot at our aircraft, which were peacefully dropping bombs on his towns. I think this is similar to these statements. [end recording]

### Gasanov on National Army

*LD0703190192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris, 7 Mar (TASS)—Azerbaijan is continuing to form a national army which subsequently will be sent to the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] to carry out military actions until Armenian armed subunits are defeated finally or are driven out of that area completely, Azerbaijan Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov told an AFP correspondent today.

"We intend to continue the battle further," the head of government pointed out. Touching upon possible talks on a peaceful settlement of the conflict, he stressed that they may take place only after the "Armenian army" leaves the NKAO.

We need a national army to affirm our status as an independent state, the prime minister stated further. In

his words, the CIS is threatened with rapid disintegration unless its member countries become "really independent." "All independent countries of the world are independent only because they have their own army," he added.

In reply to the journalist's question about the possibility of the national Azerbaijan army's direct intervention in the NKAO conflict, Gasanov replied that "the army is the army and it will guarantee the security of the state regardless of where the threat comes from—be it Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia, or anywhere else."

### Kazandzhi 'Seized'; 27 Killed

*LD0603131792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1215 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Mar (TASS)—Some 27 people were killed and several dozen wounded as a result of a mass attack by Azerbaijani armed formations on the Armenian village of Kazandzhi in Mardakertskiy rayon, Nagorno-Karabakh. ITAR-TASS was told by telephone at the directorate of internal affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic that this village which had been defended for the past two days was seized and burned by the Azerbaijanis last night. The fate of the more than 100 inhabitants of Kazandzhi remains unknown. According to estimates by witnesses, up to 10 armored vehicles and about 1,000 Azerbaijanis took part in the attack on Kazandzhi.

During the past 24 hours a further seven Armenian populated points in Nagorno-Karabakh have been subjected to artillery fire. There is destruction and many casualties, including women and children.

At 1130 today the rayon center of Martuni came under fire by Grad weapons positioned in the neighboring Azerbaijani village of Amiranlar. Following this, a large-scale attack was unleashed from the direction of Agdamskiy rayon toward Askeranskiy rayon. According to preliminary reports, up to 1,500 armed people and about 20 armored vehicles are taking part in it on the Azerbaijani side. Fierce battles are taking place on the approaches to Askeran and the village of Nakhichevanik. No reports about casualties have yet been received in the directorate of internal affairs.

As was stated by the Internal Affairs Directorate duty officer, the people living in Stepanakert (Khankendy) and surroundng villages have begun to be alarmed by the presence near the town of the assault troops who came to cover the withdrawal of the 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment. According to reports from the internal affairs directorate, the regiment has already been withdrawn but the assault troops are still there. According to reports received by noon, the assault troops shot citizen Khachatryan who was driving past the unit. A peasant was wounded there two days ago. The circumstances of the incident are being clarified. Fighter aircraft are overflying the town and at night they fire clusters of flares which affect the inhabitants who live in fear.

### Shelling of Askeran Continues

*OW0803133392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lur news center reports that this morning (March 8) Azeri tanks and artillery were still shelling the town of Askeran in Nagorno-Karabakh from positions they won in the course of yesterday's offensive.

The offensive, supported by nine tanks, one of which was hit by the Armenians, was beaten off but was followed by a massive attack on Askeran with missiles fired from a Grad (Hail) launcher. According to Lur reports, there were numerous casualties and many of the buildings were destroyed.

Today Azeri forces also attacked some Armenian villages in Mardakert District.

Lur also reports that yesterday Azeri soldiers captured two peasants in the Tush District of Armenia as hostages. The same day the Azeris attacked two villages in that district, Aigepar and Mosesgekh, with shells and missiles ruining one of Armenia's largest canneries.

### More on Khodzhaly Attack

*OW0703140392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sources in Azerbaijan told IF [INTERFAX] that on Saturday [7 March] the Azeri self-defense forces launched an offensive outside Askeran in Nagorno-Karabakh in order to break into the town of Khodzhaly. The aim of their attack was "to take the remains of civilians killed during the February 26-27 events out of Khodzhaly".

The press center of the Azeri Popular Front says that the city of Agdam is being under rocket and artillery fire from the direction of Askeran and adjoining Armenian villages.

### Nagorno-Karabakh Establishes Defense Council

*NC0603170292 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium met and established a Defense Council in the hope that this step will put an end to the unorganized actions of certain self-defense forces in the republic. The situation was calm in Stepanakert on 5 March.

## Georgia

### Reportage on Shevardnadze Visit to Tbilisi

#### Met by Military Council

*LD0703124992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1156 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Gbritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Excerpt] Tbilisi, 7 Mar (TASS)—Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Tbilisi this afternoon. At the airport of the Georgian capital he was met by Jaba Ioseliani and Tengiz Ketovani, leaders of the republic's military council, and by leaders of a number of ministries and departments of the provisional government and by journalists.

The last time Eduard Shevardnadze was in his homeland was in April 1989 after the tragic events in front of Parliament House on Rustaveli Prospekt. The current arrival of the man, who was formerly head of the foreign policy department of the disintegrated Union and before that the leader of the Communist Party of this republic for 13 years, is connected with his founding of the Public Foundation of Democracy and Rebirth of Georgia [Obshchestvennyy Fond Demokratii i Vozrozhdeniya Gruzii]. [passage omitted]

#### Greeting Described as 'Varied'

*OW0803175992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze's arrival in Georgia received varied response, an "Interfax" correspondent reports from Tbilisi.

The Chairman of the Party for National Independence Iraklii Tsereteli said in an interview with "Interfax" that Shevardnadze "can play a definite role in improving the well-being of the Georgian people".

The leader of the Union of National Harmony and Resurrection of Georgia Valerian Advadze expressed certainty that the ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR "must be included in the higher echelons of power".

According to the Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Georgia Guram Muchaidze the social democrats have put their hopes on Shevardnadze's arrival.

A leader of the National Democratic party Teimuraz Sumbatashvili said that "we shouldn't put much hope on Shevardnadze and make a Messiah out of him". "As First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia he made a number of unforgivable mistakes and his rule of more than 10 years can only be described as a dictatorship", Sumbatashvili said.

The Chairman of the Georgian People's Front Nodar Natadze declined comment.

The "Interfax" correspondent reports that supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who are active opponents of Shevardnadze, have not expressed their opinions.

Shortly after his arrival Saturday [7 March] Shevardnadze visited the Zionist cathedral and the Sabtjrtalin cemetery where victims of the December-January events are buried. Saturday evening following a drive down the destroyed Rustaveli Prospect, which Shevardnadze said left a "shocking impression", the former Foreign Minister spoke to residents of Tbilisi.

In response to a question from an "Interfax" correspondent on what can help Georgia today, Shevardnadze said "No one can help us unless we start to act ourselves. The situation is critical but there are solutions. The most important thing now is to unite the people and political forces, otherwise catastrophe is unavoidable".

On Sunday at 19.00 [1600 GMT] there will be a press conference with Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi.

#### Sees Patriarch

*LD0703215392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1825 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 7 March (TASS)—Eduard Shevardnadze, who arrived in Georgia today, made his first stop on his way from the airport to Tbilisi at the residence of the Katholicos, patriarch of all Georgia, Iliya the Second. The meeting with the head of the Georgian orthodox autocephalous church, in the opinion of observers, was for Eduard Shevardnadze a distinctive Christian counsel and blessing for good deeds.

Profoundly honouring the memory of the victims of the tragic events of 9 April 1989 and of those who died during clashes on the streets of Tbilisi in October and December of 1991 and January of 1992, Eduard Shevardnadze then visited the burial place of the victims of these events. He also stopped on Rustaveli Prospekt outside government house where in December and January embittered fighting took place between the supporters and opponents of the overthrown Georgian President.

On Sunday [7 March] a meeting is planned between Eduard Shevardnadze and the leaders of the republic's provisional government. The same day the opening ceremony for the fund for democracy and the revival of Georgia, established at his initiative, is to take place.

### Talks With Intelligentsia

*LD0803145892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1409 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 8 Mar (TASS)—Today, the second day of his visit to Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze met with representatives of the capital's intelligentsia. During the conversation with people active in the fields of science, culture, and art the political situation in the republic was analyzed and several ways to bring Georgia out of the deep crisis were planned. With this meeting Eduard Shevardnadze, to all appearances, wanted to stress the significance that he attaches to intellectuals in establishing a new Georgia.

Yesterday at the airport, he noted "the very important role" that the Georgian intelligentsia has played "in the struggle against the dictatorial regime" of Zviad Gamsakhurdia and in his overthrow.

### Meets Sigua, Government Leaders

*LD0803174992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1545 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] News agencies report that former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today met representatives of Georgia's provisional government, including Sigua, in Georgia.

### Calls Situation 'Critical'

*LD0803210492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze held a news conference in Tbilisi on today's meetings with representatives from various regions of the republic. A meeting with the leaders of political parties is planned for 9 March. Eduard Shevardnadze described Georgia's situation as critical. He said that economic and political changes must go alongside each other; however, Georgia will need help from Western friends. Eduard Shevardnadze said that he did not know what would happen tomorrow or in the next few months because the situation with energy and food was extremely hard.

### Gamsakhurdia Discusses Country's Situation

*LD0803232592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1235 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Interview with former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia by correspondent Aleksandr Kurikov; place and date not given; from the "Author's TV" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Kurikov] Mr. President, how do you and your family feel?

[Gamsakhurdia] A bit depressed, because the news from Georiga is terrible, simply terrible. What is being done there is unimaginable. We're all very depressed and in a very bad mood.

[Kurikov] Do you find yourself under a news and political blockade?

[Gamsakhurdia] Yes.

[Kurikov] Tell me, are you trying to break through these two encirclements?

[Gamsakhurdia] I am trying, of course, as far as possible. There was a press conference here, when I arrived in Groznyy. But it was not very extensive. Breaking through the blockade is not just up to me. People have got to show goodwill.

[Kurikov] As far as the political blockade is concerned, what model does this blockade have? In the former territory of the USSR there are several independent countries which have presidents. Have you had a chance to communicate with them, and if so, with what results?

[Gamsakhurdia] I have not yet been able to do so, because those communications are lacking, and other communications are impossible.

[Kurikov] But they have not tried to get in touch with you?

[Gamsakhurdia] No.

[Kurikov] What about the international public? What is the reaction? Do you feel any?

[Gamsakhurdia] Well, to some extent I do. You know what the U.S. secretary of state has said about the junta and the self-appointed government of Georgia, that they will never recognize it. You are no doubt aware of that. Until legitimate power is restored in Georgia, and until I am restored in Georgia, the United States will not establish diplomatic relations with Georgia or recognize it. Of course it is in the press but for some reason they are not giving much space to it; for some reason they are refraining from covering these tragic events, from covering them objectively.

[Kurikov] There have recently been reports that terrorist groups have been sent into Georgia. You probably know of those reports. What do you make of them?

[Gamsakhurdia] Absolute fabrications. Absolute fabrications and malicious slander. They are concealing everything that is happening there and falsifying the reality.

[Kurikov] Mr. President, these events that have happened in the republic have split the people of Georgia. Many of these people are your supporters.

[Gamsakhurdia] You know, the people are on my side. In general, it is not a division of the people but something entirely different.

[Kurikov] Tell me, do you have any concrete plan—I do not want the details of course—but any concrete plan?

[Gamsakhurdia] It is a plan for civil disobedience, which is being carried out in Georgia. In fact, no one is obeying the junta. About 90 percent of industry is at a standstill, as you probably know, most of the trains are not running, and 90 percent of the people are not working. The situation is appalling—the economic situation.

[Kurikov] Lately there have been a lot of reports which you could call hotheaded, which you could say arouse a smile; for example, the report that you have a double living in Georgia.

[Gamsakhurdia] Those are cock-and-bull stories intended to distract attention from all these tragic occurrences. They are amusing themselves with all these fairytales about a double and so on, whereas in fact they do not want to listen to the pain of the people, the plight in which the Georgian people now find themselves and what these gangs at large all over Georgia are doing to them.

[Kurikov] The putsch took place in Georgia right after certain events associated with the formation of the CIS.

[Gamsakhurdia] Yes.

[Kurikov] Tell me, do you see a link between what took place in Tbilisi...

[Gamsakhurdia] I do, yes. Because I did not reply to the proposal that I should sign the treaty on the CIS. Because I would have had to decide that on the basis of a referendum: I could not decide that by myself as president—even less could I have done so without having consulted parliament. I did not succeed in consulting parliament because there was destabilization. So they took revenge for that delay and instructed the putschists to begin military operations.

[Kurikov] Do you think that the center, in the form that existed previously, as previously understood, has been preserved?

[Gamsakhurdia] To some extent, yes; in relation to the republics I think it has.

[Kurikov] Do you think it is an organizational structure, or is it a way of thinking?

[Gamsakhurdia] Possibly. Possibly it is a survival of imperialism that is still persisting.

[Kurikov] There is talk in Georgia now of the need to hold elections, re-elections to parliament.

[Gamsakhurdia] Yes.

[Kurikov] Tell me, what is your prediction regarding those elections?

[Gamsakhurdia] It is impossible, because an election—legitimate election—has to be called by Georgia's parliament. But they have disbanded the parliament, so it is impossible to call such an election by legitimate means. An election can only be called with my consent, only by consent of the president and parliament. Any new law on elections has to be signed by me. That is the law of our country under the Constitution. But they are saying they have abolished the Constitution, and the parliament, everything, and they alone are the legislators.

[Kurikov] Do you see your future mission as a politician as purely peacemaking?

[Gamsakhurdia] Of course, and that is just what I havev always tried to do. I have always tried to do just that, though the center has tried to turn it all upside-down.

[Kurikov] Let me quote the view of one analyst, since there has been so much discussion lately about the events in Georgia: You have turned out not to be the man for this situaton—but perhaps for the future. What do you think of that version?

[Gamsakhudia] Perhaps it is right. Perhaps at present it is not possible to rule in such a liberal way, perhaps tough methods are needed, especially in dealing with those criminal elements. No doubt I was not sufficiently harsh.

## South Ossetia Reported Quiet 'Past 24 Hours'

*LD0803120692 Moscow TASS in English 1156 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz March 8 TASS—According to the press centre of the South Ossetia information committee, there have been no local combat actions, exchanges of fire, or hostage-taking in the region over the past 24 hours for the first time in many months.

This reassuring development of events in the region, local analysts believe, is connected with specific steps taken by the leadership of North and South Ossetia and the provisional government of Georgia to settle the Ossetian-Georgian relations.

South Ossetia has taken a positive view of a report about Eduard Shevardnadze's comeback to Georgia. Tskhinval associates his name with hopes for a stabilisation of the socio-political situation and the removal of tension between South Ossetia and Georgia.

A report has reached here on Sunday [7 March] about the resumption of traffic along the Transcaucasian highway. Food, medicines and prime necessities were sent to Tskhinval in large trucks.

### Army Food Convoy Fired on

*LD0903115692 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, North Ossetia March 9 (ITAR-TASS)—A convoy of military vehicles which delivered food products to Tskhinval, the administrative centre of South Ossetia, came under fire on Monday [9 March] morning. Fire was open on it from large-calibre machine-guns from the ourskirts of the Georgian village of Tamarasheni. One serviceman was killed, three others wounded.

There was a relative lull in South Ossetia last night, just as the previous two nights, although the siege of Tskhinvali continues. There were no exchanges of fire, nor seizures of hostages on the approaches to Tskhinvali and on the border with the Gori District, the usual trouble spots. This lull which set in from last weekend gives hope for the stabilisation of the situation and, in the opinion of local observers, is connected with the establishment of contacts between the Ossetian leadership and the Georgian Provisional Government.

The Ossetian side on the whole positively assessed the arrival in Georgia of former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. It is believed here that his active participation in the life of Georgia would help settle an armed conflict in South Ossetia and resume normal Ossetian-Georgian relations.

### Over 200 Arrested in Abkhazia Under New Law

*AU0603173092 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] As is known, the Law on the Introduction of a Special Regime for Civilians on the Territory of Abkhazia took effect on 2 March.

Our correspondent was informed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs that during the last four days, more than 200 people have been arrested. Most will have to pay a fine of 16,000 rubles. In general, there has been less crime in Abkhazia during the last few days.

Rallies in support of Zviad Gamsakhurdia are continuing in Sukhumi. Today a group of (?students) is staging a sit-in outside the Georgian drama theater.